Daily Report

Latin America

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Bird Accuses Brother of Carrying Out Witch Hunt

FL0409183790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1724 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Sept 4, CANA—A probe into the transshipment of Israeli arms through Antigua and Barbuda in 1989 has proven what most people know—that Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird and his brother, Vere Jr., are not the best of friends. Bird Jr., the former public works minister, accused his brother of carrying out a "witch hunt" to get him fired from the Cabinet last May. Bird Jr. was continuing his testimony Monday before a commission of inquiry headed by British jurist Louis Blom-Cooper into the shipment of Israeli-made arms to Colombian drug lords.

"The Hon. Lester Bird raged a vicious campaign against me. He had pubulic meetings with many of my colleagues in Cabinet. He was on the radio and the television almost every day and night. He was writing the ministers of foreign affairs (of the Caribbean Community) asking them to intercede and intervene," Bird Jr. said.

"And he hounded the prime minister until in the end the prime minister had no alternative but to revoke my appointment."

Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr. is the father of Vere Jr. and Lester, who is also the country's foreign affairs minister. The foreign minister had told the commission he was not out to get his brother sanctioned, but the arms transshipment was so serious that he wanted it fully investigated. The Antigua Government said it never ordered the guns and ammunition, but investigators said Bird Jr. sanctioned the purchase. Bird Jr. denied this.

In his testimony, he said he had requested leave of absence from his ministerial duties when he was implicated by Israeli documents in the arms scandal.

"This has been very painful for me because it is tantamount to my colleagues pre-judging the issue," he said.

"It is tantamount to the public believing, if my colleague takes this attitude, that I may very well be guilty. It is also tantamount to the fact and the reality that of all persons named in this matter I'm the only one who has suffered from it. No one else has been fired."

Commander Walker Denies Involvement

FL0509022790 Bridgetown CANA in English 2255 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] St. John's Antigua, Sept 4, CANA—Commander of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, Col. Clyde Walker said he was against the establishment of a military training school by Israelis here last year because he had "detected that there was something wrong." Giving evidence before a commission of inquiry into last year's arms transshipment through Antigua from Israel to Colombia, Walker said he formed certain reservations from the pamphlets which were given to him outlining specific details on the proposal.

"The pamphlet marked anti-terrorist training..., I told Vere Bird Junior I had serious reservations on that. On another ... there was mention of the specialty shop, but this is not consistent with training schools and the arms were excessive," he told sole Commissioner Louis Blom-Cooper.

He said he advised Vere Bird Junior, who introduced a group of Israelis to him in 1988, that the plans for the "anti-terrorist school" were more intense and "higher than any regional defence force" in terms of weapons training. The ABDF commander mentioned that "Vere Bird Jr. knew that the whole thing smelled from the time go," and recalled the former public works minister "trying to evade" the Israelis first at a breakfast and subsequently at a luncheon meeting. "I believe that Vere Bird smelled the rat and that's why he never wanted to appear as if he was interested in their (Israeli) school," he told the commission.

The "BDF commander mentioned that Israeli Maurice Safarti who then owned Roydon melon farm "was never mentioned as having an interest in the project". He denied during his testimony punctuated on several occasions by laughter from the audience, that during his visit to Miami on October 5, 1988, he met Safarti because "I would meet the devil first".

It is alledged that during this visit to Miami the "BDF commander met Safarti and placed an order to obtain arms from Israeli Military Industries (IMI). He said he was in Miami but "to shop for my family business."

Commander Walker said he was doing his best to cooperate with the commission, but noted that he was "not involved in no ordering or transshipment of arms".

Cuban Officials Questioned on Antidrug Efforts

FL0509011890 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] This pamphlet distributed at the Palace of Conventions includes an assessment of Cuba's participation in the fight against drug trafficking. Additional information was given to Cuban and foreign reporters during a news conference.

Dr. Amado Guntin Guerra, vice minister of justice and chairman of the National Anti-Drug Commission; and Colonel Ramon San Gee, chief of the Anti-Drug Department of the Interior Ministry, attended the news conference, among other officials. Dr. Guntin referred to the commission he chairs which is composed of members of various organizations of the central state administration to coordinate actions against drug trafficking. He also talked about the steps Cuba has been taking with other area countries regarding bilateral cooperation. The following was the response given to a question asking if

Cuba shares information or has any type of anti-drug cooperation with U.S. authorities:

[Begin Colonel San Gee recording] The U.S. Government cannot deny that our country informs its services in Miami about the planes that violate the air space, and no reports are ever made about what happens to those planes. A plane that violates the air space is not necessarily involved in drug trafficking. A plane that violates the air space is any aircraft that does not ask for permission. The information is not available. Everytime a suspicious vessel is spotted information is requested from the United States. [end recording]

The question was also posed regarding whether or not Cuba is strengthening legal measures to combat narcotrafficking. The answer was that a bill is being worked on. It was explained that this bill is practically complete and after a consultation process, it will be submitted before the Cuban parliament for approval. In any case, it was noted that this legal instrument contemplates very harsh sanctions for drug traffickers.

The press was given a detailed explanation on the mode of operation of drug traffickers in Cuban waters and its surrounding areas. It was said that for over 20 years Cuba, which does not produce, transport, nor consume illegal drugs, has been facing the increasing activity of these international criminals who, in fact, take advantage of our country's geographical situation for their operations and use this route on their way to the southern part of the United States.

Last year alone, Cuba seized almost two tons of cocaine. This places us, according to Interpol statistics, in tenth place regarding this drug's seizure. [passage omitted]

Cuba

Vehicles Need Authorization To Travel Empty

FL1909175490 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The price of a barrel of oil is currently $35.00, approximately twice as much as it was only 50 days ago before Iraq occupied Kuwait. The price oil could reach is unpredictable if the war machinery the United States and its allies have placed in the Arab-Persian Gulf triggers a war. One cannot rule out that, under the present circumstances, the oil supplies we have contracted for this year are delayed or reduced as a result of the embargo against Iraq.

The measures announced at the end of August to reduce our fuel spending have been implemented by the organizations that regulate this essential area of the economy and have been complemented by dispositions issued by the highest levels of the ministries and organizations that consume most of the fuel.

The Transportation Ministry has just issued a resolution that requires a travel authorization to prevent cargo transportation vehicles from traveling without loads as much as possible. These authorizations will be issued by the national shipping enterprise agencies known as Expeditrans. The closest agency to the place where the truck's or trailer's trip originates must give the vehicle's driver a travel authorization that allows the vehicle to go to the agency the national shipping enterprise approves. The new disposition centralizes the control of the vehicles that circulate through our roads. This allows for a better supervision of the vehicles' rational use so that resources, especially fuel, can be saved.

ANPP President Discusses Problem Solving

FL1909211990 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Juan Escalona Reguera, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], today reiterated in Havana the importance of the participation of the masses in solving their own problems.

The top representative of the country's highest state organ made these remarks at a meeting in Havana with reporters from the people's government and journalists who specialize in this topic.

He stressed that one fundamental objective is to solve the population's problems, which requires a serious effort and sacrifice on the part of Cuban revolutionaries. He explained the importance of the mass media in supplying information to citizens, who, having decided to win, dedicate themselves more each day to socialism.

During the meeting, ANPP Secretary Ernesto Suarez discussed the preparations being made for the special ANPP session [in December 1990].

Batista Santana Satisfied With CDR Work

FL2009005790 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The meeting of the National Directorate of the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] to analyze the organization's work performed during the first half of this year has ended with a message congratulating the committees.

The main report says that the results during this stage are higher than those attained during the same time in 1989. Nevertheless, it acknowledged that despite this favorable balance, it is necessary to eliminate deficiencies, improvised meetings, and unjustifiable mobilizations. The report also says that incentives must be established that will motivate CDR members, primarily youths, to fulfill their tasks.

Afterwards, in a meeting with the press, Division General Sixto Batista Santana, CDR national coordinator, assessed the work of the committees and discussed their possibilities.

[Begin Batista Santana recording] I am satisfied with the work the organization has done in these nine months. We have fulfilled almost all tasks this year, but, above all, we have elevated vigilance. Above all, we are working very hard with the cadres to bring them these new work concepts. We are taking this to the grass roots level. We are working with the people and we can see their combative spirit. We are trying to make our organization truly ready for war.

I think that our organization, as it was in 1960, during those difficult years of the revolution, is now able to reach that level and I feel satisfied with the work done by all the CDRs, not just the work of the cadres. The work cannot be done only by the cadres. It has to be accomplished with the awareness of the people and the CDRs. [end recording]

Aldana Meets With Nonaligned Countries' Envoys

FL1909235590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2309 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Report by Orlando Contreras on the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] A meeting of information ministers from nonaligned countries will begin on 24 September in Havana. Eighty delegations have already confirmed their attendance.

Because of the meeting, the Cuban delegation, presided over by Carlos Aldana [Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba], this afternoon called a meeting of ambassadors accredited in our

country from nonaligned countries to provide them with information on how the event is being organized and to let them know that Cuba will make a great effort to make it possible to reach a representative consensus at this important meeting in a spirit of cooperation, agreement, and complete respect for the pluralistic nature of the nonaligned countries.

Bolivian Ambassador Oscar Pena expressed his concern that the changes that are now occurring throughout the world could affect the possibility of reaching new agreements in the heart of the nonaligned countries movement.

In response and as a commentary, Aldana said that he hoped that changes of opinion, including turning points in the practice of post-war policies, will not permeate the movement's accepted practices of agreement and cooperation, lead to actions of interference, or impose models or plans upon the political practices of nonaligned countries and Latin America. There is a strong tendency in the world today to impose the ideology of removing ideology [la ideologia de la desideologizacion], Aldana said.

Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri gave an in-depth report on the organizational aspects of the meeting which will begin prior to the ministerial meeting on Monday, 24 September, with a report from the president of the nonaligned countries' Intergovernmental Council for Information. In this case, the report will be made by Zimbabwe.

It is appropriate to remember that the nonaligned countries movement has more than 100 full members and it has been presided over by Yugoslavia since the ninth summit.

To conclude this report, I would like to stress that Carlos Aldana told the nonaligned countries' ambassadors, as well as the national and foreign press, that Cuba is willing to share its expertise with any nonaligned countries that need its skill in confronting communications interference from a foreign power. This was an obvious reference to the technical success that has led to the failure of the costly Yankee project of television interference in our country.

Anniversary of Cuban-Soviet Space Flight Marked

FL1909145590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Colonel Arnaldo Tamayo, first Latin American cosmonaut, has met with the members of the official Soviet delegation invited to attend the festivities marking the 10th anniversary of the Cuba-Soviet Union space flight. The anniversary of the historic event was marked at the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association in Havana.

Lieutenant General (Vladimir Shatalov), president of the friendship association between the two countries, is heading the delegation which is also composed of Colonels Yuriy Romanenko, (Leoniv Popov), and (Valerie Ryumin), cosmonauts.

The journalists who reported the launching of Soyuz 38 manned by Tamayo and Romanenko in 1980 were also present. [passage omitted]

Trade Seminar Examines Cooperation With Brazil

FL1909133390 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The second day of the seminar on the balance and outlook of trade between Brazil and Cuba has ended in Sao Paulo with a broad analysis of the production cooperation possibilities through joint enterprises. (Sergio Chiler), director of foreign trade of the Finance Ministry of Brazil, and Enrique Martinez, vice president of the Central Planning Board of Cuba, mainly referred to the possibility of creating joint enterprises. Businessman (Francisco Flalock), who chaired the commission that examined the areas of commerce, highlighted the considerable increase of relations between Brazil and Cuba since last year.

Outgoing Ambassador Meets With Angolan Official

FL1909143090 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1419 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The aid provided by Cuba to Angola even before independence was stressed in Luanda by Roberto de Almeida, a member of the Central Committee of the MPLA-PT [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party]. De Almeida, who is also secretary of the ideological section of the Angolan political organization, expressed the gratitude of his government, party, and people to the Cuban Revolution during a farewell meeting with outgoing Cuban Ambassador Martin Mora.

In the warm, comradely atmosphere that marks relations between Cuba and Angola, Roberto de Almeida also expressed thanks for our country's cooperation in the fields of health and education. In saying goodbye to Cuban Ambassador Martin Mora, the Angolan leader stressed the decisive military aid from our country that forced South Africa to retreat and agree to Namibian independence.

Bahamas

Prime Minister Enlarges, Reshuffles Cabinet

FL1909182190 Bridgetown CANA in English 1752 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Nassau, the Bahamas, Sept 19, CANA—Bahamian Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling has been criticised by the Nassau GUARDIAN newspaper for increasing his Cabinet to 15 ministers. Sir Lynden appointed two new ministers to his Cabinet and relieved

himself of the Ministry of Finance in a major reshuffle, effective October 1. He named himself minister of tourism, sending the current minister, Deputy Prime Minister Sir Clement Maynard, to head foreign affairs. All but two ministers have been affected by the reshuffle.

"The tax-payers will now have to cough up funds to increase the salaries" of the new ministers, the Nassau GUARDIAN complained in an editorial. "We recognize that any leader would feel more comfortable with his priority force including men who are inclined to give him their support under all circumstances."

The new ministers, Vincent Peet and Marvin Pinder, said the GUARDIAN, are likely to always be on Sir Lynden's side in any Cabinet dispute. "However, a better way to maintain his 'support' percentage and demonstrate that he is cognizant of the need for all in the country to tighten their belts would have been to drop a couple of ministers, the paper said.

"He took the easy road for himself and an expensive one for the people," the GUARDIAN charged. Cabinet ministers take home approximately 100,000 dollars a year.

"At this time, when Sir Lyden as much as anyone else is advocating the necessity for a tightening of budgets in the face of the projected economic crunch worldwide, he does the opposite in this case. We are against the enlargement of the Cabinet, especially now."

Dominican Republic

Government Asks Venezuela for Further Oil Credits

FL1909165090 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The Dominican Government has officially asked Venezuela for an automatic 30 percent credit in paying for oil imports, instead of 20 percent. This information was given by Secretary of Industry and Trade Dr. Arturo Martinez Moya, who stated that on his visit to Venezuela he met twice with President Carlos Andres Perez. Martinez Moya said that he communicated to the Venezuelan president the Dominican concern about the effects of the situation in the Persian Gulf on this country's economy. Martinez Moya revealed that President Perez has promised to study the case along with Mexico, a country which, with Venezuela, is a party to the San Jose Accord for preferential sales of oil to Central American and Caribbean countries, including the Dominican Republic.

Haiti

State Council Member on Conflict With Executive

FL1909183090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The conflict between the State Council and the executive still exists. It has been more than a month since the State Council separated, maybe for good, from the executive. During this period of time, no explanation has been provided regarding the role of the State Council in Mrs. Trouillot's government. [passage omitted].

Dr. Lominy, member of the State Council, spoke to our reporter. [passage omitted].

[Reporter] According to Dr. Lominy, such a breakdown is due not only to a Council vote of no confidence toward Mrs. Ertha Pascal Trouillot's government, but to the absence of any institutions morally trustworthy enough to sign the death certificate of this provisional government. Furthermore, the Army is no longer the arbitrator as it was in 1986. The Army has lost its strength and hesitates to take power because the United States, through Dan Quayle, has clearly expressed that it would not support a military government.

How is such a long-lasting silence on the part of the executive regarding conflict with the State Council to be explained? Such a long silence proves that Mrs. Trouillot cannot dispute the justifications used by the State Council to impose the vote of no confidence. If hers were a government that respected public opinion, it would have given its word in the conflict, but the contrary happened, emphasizes Dr. Lominy. Are the members of the State Council going to resign? Not at all, Dr. Lominy replies. [passage omitted].

Regarding this alternative, Dr. Lominy is clear: Mrs. Trouillot's downfall will automatically cause the downfall of the State Council; however, this would not prevent the people, within the framework of a new alternative, from bringing this State Council, or another, to the top. Dr. Lominy acknowledges that the State Council as an institution has also failed for not having been able to prevent Mrs. Trouillot from rising to power as an absolute head of state. Therefore, who are the real persons responsible for such a failure?

[Begin Dr. Lominy recording] Among the persons responsible, we can name first Mrs. Trouillot herself, who as the first woman to have acceded to the Presidency, as a woman coming from the Court of Cassation, has not honored this institution in the sense that since the very first contact, she has shown no respect for a given word. In addition to that, Mrs. Trouillot is guilty of having systematically violated the protocol agreement that she had sworn to respect.

Mrs. Trouillot's government has failed because it seems she has accepted the state presidency only to enjoy the privileges and advantages that such a position provides. There are certain risks, however, in the duties attached to such a position. Mrs. Trouillot is not ready to assume those risks. Although one must face the antichange forces, which are very powerful and have a lot of money and arms, Mrs. Trouillot has preferred to remain complacent. [passage omitted] [end recording].

[Reporter] What about the role of the Americans in all of this? Lominy explains that to understand their behavior,

it is necessary to note their regional policy. They no longer want a military government but rather a government democratically elected. [passage omitted].

Any government that would replace Mrs. Trouillot and assure the United States that the elections would be held on the anticipated schedule would be supported by the Americans. They do not care for Mrs. Trouillot as president of the Republic, Dr. Lominy states. [passage omitted]

The Haitian political class is also responsible for such a failure, Dr. Lominy continues, because part of this class has not found it abnormal that Madam violated some agreements because she is the provisional president. Some people thought that to keep power, one had to lean on the American Embassy and the Army. Then one could disregard popular demands or those of the State Council. [passage omitted]

According to Lominy, the mainstay of the game is the Army, the most important institution as well as the most grasping of this corrupted, repressive, and antinational state. Those responsible for such a failure are those who did not understand that it was necessary to take advantage of the weakness of the Armed Forces of Haiti at the time of Avril's downfall and to make the necessary reforms, especially the separation between the police and the Army. [passage omitted]

Dr. Lominy is the representative of the professional sector within the State Council.

Several Duvalierists React to Lafontant Article

FL1909160890 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Several Duvalierist leaders openly stand aloof from Roger Lafontant [former interior minister of Jean-Claude Duvalier] following his decision to declare himself, in an article he wrote for LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR, chief organizer of the Duvalierists and Macoutes. According to the article that looks more like a manifesto, entitled, "So That the Seed Does Not Die," the class is gathered under the banner of one single chief: Roger Lafontant, who has allegedly met the approval of 17 other leaders including Clovis Desinor, Alphonse Lahens, Claude Raymond, Lamartinere Honorat, Herve Boyer, Gregoire Eugene, Edouard Francisque, Auguste Robinson, Volvick Remy Joseph, Jean Theagene, Serge Beaulieu, Joseph Rene, Clemard Joseph Charles, Lysias Verret, Camille Silaire, Alexis Cineas, and Gerard Emmanuel Constant.

In spite of this report, immediately following publication of the article in LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR, a number of these leaders reacted. Six of them, Lamartiniere Honorat, Gregoire Eugene, Edouard Francisque, Camille D. Silaire, Lysias C. Verret, and Clemard Joseph Charles, have already said that they know nothing about this business. A number of notes have been received by the press.

Lawyer Gregoire Eugene, leader of Haitian Social Christian Party [PSCH], declares: I am afraid that this business might sow confusion and make people think that all those whose signatures appear at the bottom of Roger Lafontant's text gave their approval and supposedly agreed to follow him. The truth, says lawyer Eugene, is that a copy of the text was sent to him on the afternoon of Friday 14 September while LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR was undoubtedly already going to press.

If my ideological conviction, my doctrine, my disposition, my Christian vision indicate that until now I have been blaming the rowdy and revanchist attitude of those who have been speaking against the Duvalierists since 7 February 1986; if I denounce the mob-like behavior of the people who consider the period from 1946 to 1986 as 40 years of shame, that is to say, those who see only the negative aspects; if I assert before and after 7 February 1986 that I am from the middle class; still, I could not definitely support the position of Dr. Roger Lafontant who calls the 40 years of power of Estime, Magloire, Francois and Jean-Claude Duvalier social democracy that brought benefits to all Haitians. Dr. Lafontant prefers to erase all the aspects that are negative.

Finally Eugene speaks of the struggles he championed in FRATERNITE [newspaper] against presidency for life, repression, violation of basic human rights, social injustice, greed, and misuse of public funds. Such struggles cost him two arrests, three years of exile, three months of house arrest, and banned him from teaching in the university. Eugene wonders how he could support the position of Lafontant without betraying himself. According to the title of Lafontant's article, he apparently wants to return to the system that Eugene has forcefully fought against both before and after 7 February, 1986. Eugene wonders whether his own struggle would mean anything in this particular case?

National Television Employees Resign

FL1909134690 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in Creole 1030 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Since the resignations of two National Television of Haiti [TNH] employees, newsroom director Marie Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue and announcer Frantz Guerrier, and the dismissal of general director Herold Jean-Francois, three more journalists have resigned. They are chief editor Jacques Mezy and reporters Carole Jacob and Osias Otschil who state in a press release we received from them that they resigned because the executive wants to reinstate the propaganda policy used by the media under General Prosper Avril and other former governments. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Police Federation Accepts Government Wage Offer

FL1909215390 Bridgetown CANA in English 2049 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept 19, CANA—Rank and file members of the Jamaica Police Federation have voted to accept a wage offer from the government amounting to just under J190 million dollars.

The agreement averted an expected industrial action from the policemen who had been in negotiations with the government for several months. The policemen were originally asking for a salary package amounting to J421 million dollars while the government was offering J121 million dollars.

If the inflation outstrips the present cost of living index during the contract period, the Police Federation said, it reserves the right to reopen the contract and to renegotiate with a view to have an increase on the salary offer.

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson Calls for Debt Forgiveness, Refinancing

FL1909200590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1949 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Report by Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Sept 19, CANA—Prime Minister A N R Robinson on Wednesday called for a new approach to managing the Third World debt problem, with multilateral financial agencies such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) assuming a key role. "The world has now reached breaking point on the debt problem," the Trinidad and Tobago leader told the opening of a two-day meeting of Commonwealth finance ministers here.

At the bilateral level, Robinson called on Western donor countries to "completely or substantially" forgive debts owed by developing countries. At the multilateral level, he proposed that international financial institutions both reschedule and refinance Third World loans.

Referring to Canada's decision earlier this year to forgive debts owed by Commonwealth Caribbean countries and a subsequent announcement by the Bush administration that the United States too was considering similar action on loans owed by Latin American and Caribbean countries, Robinson said some progress had been achieved at the bilateral level, but urged similar action by other industrial countries. At the multilateral level, however, he noted there was apparent reluctance to adopt debt forgiveness strategies.

Robinson said the debt problem had contributed to a net outflow of financial resources from the developing to developed countries. He said the recent rise in oil prices resulting from the Gulf crisis would further undermine current Third World efforts to achieve growth and development. "....A second price increase in oil will do severe damage to the economies of the majority of oil-importing developing countries..," he calculated.

"Under these circumstances, such a rise in the price of imported oil will do much to cancel any benefits received from meaningful relief in the debt burden of such countries."

He added: "I see no realistic and sensible option other than for the multilateral financial institutions to reschedule and/or re-finance their loans owed by oil importing countries."

Robinson said there was a need for multilateral institutions to adopt a new flexible approach in respect of adjustment programmes formulated by debtor countries. "Each nation has unique characteristics and such programmes must be tailored to the needs of individual countries," he said.

To support growth in debtor countries, Robinson called for more financing to be provided to infrastructural development and the productive sectors. He said the conditionalities attached to such loans from multilateral institutions should reflect socio-economic conditions in the debtor country.

The debt crisis is a key issue before the Commonwealth finance ministers whose meeting here provides an opportunity for an exchange of views on issues to be discussed at next week's joint meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington.

Security Minister Selwyn Richardson Resigns

FL1909142290 Bridgetown CANA in English 1348 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Sept 19, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's minister of justice and national security, Selwyn Richardson, has resigned. The move came almost two months after members of the radical Black Muslim group, the Jamaat-al-Muslimeen, attempted a coup against the government of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson.

Opposition politicians and some newspapers had called for his resignation over the coup attempt but members of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction said publicly they were backing him. Richardson tendered his letter of resignation to Robinson on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Robinson and Richardson were among several parliamentarians held hostage after the Muslim group stormed the Parliament building July 27.

It is unclear whether Robinson has accepted the resignation. Richardson had said he would not quit over events, but on matters of "principle."

"You do not resign at the drop of a hat, especially when it is said that resignation was a sign of getting out," he told state television last month.

In the letter, Richardson said:

"Without a doubt, the failure by our intelligence services to discover the actions leading up to the events of July 27, 1990, despite placing police/Army units at a strategic point, was a tragedy of which our customs (Ministry of Finance) and the respective United States authorities must share a measure of blameworthiness and, as you know, we had no forewarning whatsoever."

American officials had confirmed that the Muslimeen imported several guns from the United States for the coup attempt.

"The failure also to suppress or indeed stamp out the looting by Saturday July 28, 1990 was also a failure," Richardson told the prime minister. "As minister, I am vicariously responsible, and take full blame for same."

Leader of the opposition People's National Movement, Patrick Manning, was among those who had demanded Richardson's resignation.

"There's been a serious lapse of security" and Richardson should follow the Westminster model and "do the right thing"—resign, Manning had said.

But in the letter Richardson said:

"The reports, comments, and editorials that I should resign following the Westminster precedent is nothing short of ludicrous.... In these terrorist-type activities, nowhere in this world is there such a precedent.

"Indeed, less than seven years ago, Prime Minister (Margaret) Thatcher's entire Cabinet and party were severely mauled when terrorists struck at her Blackpool conference killing her party chairman with she herself crawling out of the rubble.

"For the record there was no resignation of any minister as a result, because the British like the Amercians in the case of Kennedy and other killings, realise that terrorism must be treated differently from the norm...."

Chamorro Comments on Visit, Army, Debt

PA2009014790 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0302 GMT 19 Sep 90

[News conference by President Violeta Chamorro, Foreign Affairs Minister Enrigue Dreyfus Morales and unidentified minister with local reporters and unidentified moderator at the Mexico City International Airport on 18 September—recorded]

[Text] [Moderator] Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro will make a brief statemen. on her visit to Mexico. Her statement will be followed by a brief question and answer period because we must return to Nicaragua. Here is the president of Nicaragua.

[Chamorro] Good evening, my dear reporters; this morning I told you good morning. I am returning to Nicaragua, my heart full of enthusiasm and happiness at seeing all of you here. I believe that you are eager to know why I made this visit. I came to Mexico in response to an invitation from your president—who is now my friend—Carlos Salinas de Gortari. I was very pleased to have lunch with him in private and to discuss our private lives, the problems in Nicaragua, and the [word indistinct] we have received. I spoke with him about the work I have done as president over the past five months to democratize the fatherland. I am willing to answer any questions you may have.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Chamorro] [Words indistinct] 15 minutes.

[Reporter] What oil debt arrangements did you make with Mexico? Was the debt forgiven or restructured? Also, does the fact that Mr. Humberto Ortega is remaining in the Army mean that a pact has been made with the Sandinists to consolidate power?

[Chamorro] I will start with the last question. General Humberto Ortega will remain in the Army for as long as I need him. In the second place, concerning the arrangement [words indistinct], I am here for talks to see how we can solve our debt problem.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] talks with President Salinas de Gortari. The second question is, have you already solved the labor conflict [words indistinct] that destabilized Nicaragua for a few days?

[Chamorro] The talks that I held today [words indistinct], as you know, were very cordial. They were aimed at finding a solution. We have found no specific solutions yet, so we will continue our talks. I am getting to know your president today, and I feel very satisfied and pleased.

Concerning the strikes in Nicaragua, I believe that where there is democracy there are strikes. There are strikes here and in all democratic countries. There were no strikes in Nicaragua in the past; however, we have them now that we have a democracy.

[Reporter] Mrs. Violeta, you said that ...

[Chamorro] Pardon me?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the Sandinist Army. In other words, 10,000 soldiers will join the unemployed ranks along with 15,000 government employees. You are proposing an economic compensation program and a $10 million fund for the people who will lose their government jobs. Ten million dollars for four or six months. Will this somehow guarantee [words indistinct] a program to deal with all of these unemployed individuals?

[Chamorro] In the first place, the size of the Nicaraguan Army must be reduced. My minister will answer your other question concerning unemployment.

[Minister] Nicaragua's economic situation is disastrous. According to a study conducted recently by a World Bank commission, Nicaragua's conditions are the worst that the World Bank has found in any Latin American country. Our huge foreign debt in terms of our hyperinflation [words indistinct], the damage done to our infrastructure during ten years of war, the large state apparatus, and the large number of inefficient state institutions are forcing us to cut back on public spending in the hope that within approximately four months, the economy will have recovered sufficiently for the unemployed to find jobs in the production sector.

We can no longer hope that the country will recover with such a large state apparatus. This situation will lead to the country's destruction within a few months. The measures that must be taken are, therefore, inevitable, but they will benefit the workers within a few months. The government is adopting protective measures and creating an emergency social fund to generate (?temporary) jobs in the country's municipalities. We are seeking international help to bolster this fund while the economic situation recovers and permanent jobs are created.

[Reporter] Do you believe that it is prudent at this time to have a Nicaraguan economic truce [tregua], as proposed by Daniel Ortega? Also, do you believe that Mexico will grant Nicaragua the same conditions for renegotiating its debt to Mexico as the international economic community did for Mexico?

[Chamorro] As president of Nicaragua, I really would not call this a truce [tregua]. On 20 September we will have a great concerted effort. I want it to be a concerted effort involving all Nicaraguans, workers, businessmen, and even companero Ortega—if he wishes.

[Reporter] Do you think that you could renegotiate the debt under the same conditons that [words indistinct]?

[Chamorro] I believe that we will renegotiate the debt. If both our governments have trust in each other, we will find solutions for the good of our countries.

[Moderator] We would like to ask you three more questions. Please, Patricia Ramos.

[Ramos] What has been your government's position regarding the U.S. aid [words indistinct]? Thank you.

[Chamorro] My dear friend, you are aware that we are looking forward to that aid, and all we can do is wait. The United States has offered us $300 million in aid. They have been giving us this aid in trickles, like many other countries would have done. We need this aid so we must wait. I hope to pay back all this [words indistinct] when we can produce enough.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] Will Mexico continue to supply us with oil?

[Chamorro] I will let the foreign minister answer that question so that he can also say something.

[Foreign Minister Dreyfus] Thank you.

[Chamorro] It is not that I cannot answer, but that we are brothers here.

[Dreyfus] That is right. Until now, because of our debt to the Mexican Government, Mexico has not been supplying us with oil. As soon as we solve the problem of our debt with Mexico, we will once again be eligible for the benefits of the San Jose Pact between Venezuela and Mexico and Central America and the Caribbean countries.

[Reporter] What do you think about the offer by Saddam Husayn to give you the oil that you need? Also, if Nicaragua is bankrupt, how are you going to [words indistinct]?

[Dreyfus] We have already been asked that question about the free oil. We must determine what free means. We believe that nothing in this world is free. [Words indistinct] we agaree with the UN statement. I do not know if that answers your question.

President Gaviria's Three-Day Visit Outlined

PA1909190090 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Colombian President Cesar Gaviria was in Mexico for a three-day visit, the final outcome of which has resulted in significant agreements being signed with Mexico. President Cesar Gaviria, accompanied by a small delegation, boarded a plane at 1330 GMT to return to Colombia at the conclusion of his visit.

After officially bidding farewell to the president of Colombia, Foreign Minister Fernando Solana Morales labeled as excellent the results of the Colombian delegation's visit to the Mexican capital. Solana Morales said that the two nations had concluded specific negotiations. Later, at the presidential house Los Pinos, a joint communique approved by the two heads of state was made public.

Salinas de Gortari and Cesar Gaviria warned that the problem of international drug trafficking has to be shared. Each nation must accept its responsibility in this scourge, which distorts the economic recovery process in developing nations and fuels the use of unspeakable violence. Both presidents encouraged the democratic process in Latin America, because it promotes regional integration. One outstanding point in the 10-page document refers to negotiations on the so-called Latin American common market. The two presidents agreed that if the free trade agreement is realized, it would boost regional relations, as well as regional integration. The Mexican and Colombian Presidents also signed significant agreements on energy cooperation to encourage the so-called Caribbean Energetic Basin (Cuenca Energetica del Caribe). Other points in the agreements signed during the successful visit of President Cesar Gaviria are those in the fields of investment, education, science, and culture. In this way Cesar Gaviria concluded his visit to Mexico with the hope of regional integration, Bolivar's dream.

El Salvador

Government Rejects FMLN Proposal for Debate

PA2009041790 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 19 Sep 90 p 3

["Official" communique issued by the Salvadoran Government in San Salvador on 18 September]

[Text] "The government of the Republic of El Salvador, in view of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] attempt to turn the negotiations between the government and FMLN groups—which are being held under the mediation of the United Nations and in keeping with procedures agreed upon at the UN office in Geneva before the secretary general of that international organization—into a propaganda event to be aired over television and radio, wishes to state the following to the national and international communities:

"1. The government's authority stems from the free elections recognized by the international community in which the Salvadoran people, based on an absolute majority of the voters, granted the government a popular mandate to attain peace in the country through the civilized means of negotiations and within the framwork of the law. Since 1 June 1989 the presidency of the republic has offered to incorporate the minority FMLN extremists, through serious and dynamic means, into the democratic process so that they can legally try to achieve political power.

"2. In keeping with that mandate and with the full support of the Central American presidents, the government promoted a serious dialogue process with the mediation of the UN secretary general, who was represented during the negotiations and meetings by Dr. Alvaro de Soto.

"3. Out of respect for the procedures established together with the United Nations, the seriousness and confidentiality of the peace process, and the intelligence of the Salvadoran people, the government of El Salvador rejects the FMLN's attempt to use the dialogue process for propaganda purposes so that it can play with the legitimate peace wishes of the government and all Salvadorans."

FMLN's Nidia Diaz: Offensive Not 'Ruled Out'

PA1909175490 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 18 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica—A leader of the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front] has stated that that seditious organization "continues to prepare for war," thereby maintaining the two-faced position of negotiating with the Salvadoran Government while continuing to threaten that country. Observers believe that the aforementioned threats are intended more to intimidate than to serve as an alternative to the peace process.

Maria Concepcion Valladares de Sosa, better known by her nom de guerre, Nidia Diaz, has said that the possibility of another military offensive similar to that of November 1989 "must not be ruled out," although the crisis that Cuba is experiencing reduces the possibility of launching an all-out attack against El Salvador.

Wearing the communist insignia of five red stars on her chest, Valladares stated that the FMLN has accepted the challenge of becoming a political party, but she conditioned this to the dismantling of the Armed Forces.

Valladares insisted that "the Armed Forces cannot defeat the FMLN, therefore, the Army must disappear."

Regarding the aforementioned thesis, a member of the government commission at the peace talks has stated that just because the government is talking to the FMLN-FDR does not mean that the Armed Forces are weak. "It is necessary to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict to avoid further bloodshed," he added.

Meanwhile, discussion of the Armed Forces issue has reached a stalemate. Thus, it is expected that the government and the rebels will move on to another issue, because there is no possibility of reaching an agreement on the FMLN-FDR's proposal of abolishing the Armed Forces.

It was learned in San Salvador that the terrorists of the FMLN-FDR made statements favoring an increase in the number of Legislative Assembly seats. By so doing, the terrorists have clearly shown their intention to support an increase in the number of deputies, which would lead to political anarchy. They added that they "are closely monitoring agreements related to amending the Electoral Law" proposed by the self-styled Inter-Party Commission.

The Inter-Party Commission has recommended that the increase in the number of deputies go into effect in the upcoming elections "so as to contribute to the Salvadoran democratization process."

The first point of the Inter-Party Commission recommendations establishes that "there is consensus on rationally increasing political campaign funding, taking into consideration inflation since March 1988."

The Inter-Party Commission recommendations continued: "The Inter-Party Commission agrees to an advance in campaign funding of three percent minimum and 75 percent maximum based on total votes. The commission recommends that receiving one percent of the vote or less results in an organization losing party status."

Meanwhile, different sectors have stated that increasing the number of deputies would be a political mistake—it would entail more government spending and would adversely affect the democratization process—because the greater the number of people giving their opinions, the longer it will take to approve laws that will benefit the people.

FMLN Launches Attack Against Military Complex

PA2009014590 Paris AFP in Spanish 0128 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Sep (AFP)—The Salvadoran guerrillas launched a strong attack tonight against a military complex in the southwestern outskirts of San Salvador, military sources have confirmed.

The attack by the rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) began at 1830 [0030 GMT], and continued 30 minutes later, civilian eyewitnesses and military spokesmen reported.

The rebels used rifle fire and explosives to attack the installations of the Public Security Academy, located two km from the capital city.

Traffic is paralyzed to and from the capital city due to the incidents.

Four FMLN Members Captured

PA2009025990 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0222 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Salvadoran guerrillas tonight attacked the Public Security Academy located in southwestern San Salvador and sabotaged the electrical system.

Armed Forces press spokesmen said that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) launched the attack at about 1900 local time [0100 GMT] with rifles and explosives.

Meanwhile, military spokesmen reported that four FMLN command unit members were captured here tonight after having blown up several power towers.

The presumed guerrillas were detained near the University of El Salvador, in northern San Salvador, when they were about to get into a taxi.

The same source reported that these individuals tried to escape when they were discovered, but were detained five blocks away.

Spokesmen for the student movement denounced the incident, however, and refuted the official report, saying that the captured individuals are students at the university.

At least five power towers were dynamited tonight, leaving a large sector of the capital without electricity.

U.S. Personnel Capture Alleged FMLN Rebels

PA2009031690 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0235 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] This is a last minute report. Civilian sources have reported that at 1915 on 19 September U.S. Embassy security personnel apprehended four individuals, including one woman, who are charged with being urban commando unit members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. According to the sources, the U.S. Embassy personnel were riding in two Cherokee jeeps near the Bloom Hospital when they apprehended Carlos Humberto Linares, Flor de Maria Lemus, taxi driver Jose Luis Mestizo, and an unidentified man. The sources added that the embassy security personnel chased the alleged guerrillas, who were in a taxi, around the San Jose de la Montana Seminary in the Escalon neighborhood.

The taxi driver, Jose Luis Mestizo, told the authorities that the three alleged rebels stopped him in Escalon and identified themselves as FMLN urban commando unit members, the sources added. The sources also said that when the three [as heard] individuals were captured, they asked for the mediation of the International Committee of the Red Cross so that their rights will be respected. The U.S. Embassy staff in our country has turned the alleged rebels over to the National Police, the civilian sources concluded.

Guatemala

Cerezo Promises To Investigate Devine Murder

PA2009003990 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] Unidentified Guatemalan officials commented at a diplomatic reception yesterday that if Michael Devine's murder is not solved, a new international incident could ensue that would harm the Cerezo government. Devine was a U.S. citizen murdered in Peten Department.

The officials mentioned that the U.S. Government respects other countries' internal affairs, but when a U.S. citizen is murdered, the U.S. Government demands that a full investigation be conducted and those responsible be put on trial.

The officials praised what they called "President Cerezo's courage in admitting that official security forces could be involved in this murder, which took place in August."

The officials also mentioned the removal of the Poptun military commander as part of the investigation, adding that "this is most significant."

The comments involved a letter recently sent by the Guatemalan president to U.S. Ambassador Thomas Stroock, in which the president admits the possibility that officials could be involved in the incident.

The text of the letter obtained by this newspaper through official sources states:

6 September 1990
Your Excellency Mr. Thomas Stroock
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala
Guatemala City
Mr. Ambassador:

According to reports by intelligence services and other reliable sources, we believe that people linked to the security forces could be responsible for the murder of U.S. citizen Michael Devine.

I categorically state that we intend to fully investigate who the killers are, locate them, and punish them according to the law. We have therefore issued the following instructions to fully clarify this case as quickly as possible:

- To the National Police Directorate, to investigate and make the respective accusations.

- To the Justice Department, based on National Police information, to request that a qualified judge issue arrest warrants and begin the corresponding judicial action before the courts of justice.

- To the Defense Ministry, following the required investigations, to make those involved available to the courts of justice. In addition, it has been decided to transfer the area military authorities to prevent the possibility of any hindrance in the investigation or legal process.

You may rest assured that we shall use all the information that may lead us to clarify this murder, faithfully complying with the country's legal procedures.

I take this opportunity to reiterate our resolve to uphold the law, regardless of circumstances. I remain,

Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, constitutional president of the Republic of Guatemala.

In connection with the case of the Peten Department military commander, whose name has not been released, the presidential secretariat's news bulletin SUMARIO said that it was due to "certain specific problems, such as the murder of U.S. citizen Michael Devine and other incidents that require investigation."

SUMARIO then goes on to say that "the change will allow this investigation to take place without obstacles and in accordance with instructions issued to the Justice Department, the National Police, and the Defense Ministry, and will place before the courts those responsible, whoever they may be."

The German news agency DPA and other news agencies have widely covered the incident. DPA quoted excerpts from President Cerezo's letter and quoted SUMARIO [passage indistinct].

Mr. Devine came to Guatemala as a Peace Corps member about 15 years ago. After working in social promotion programs, he settled in Peten Department, near Poptun, where there is a Guatemalan military base. His occupation was serving as a guide to those tourists, especially Americans, who wanted to see this exceptional geographic, historic, and tourist area.

Sometimes he took tourists fishing and hunting. He was not known to have any political problems. The reason for his murder is not known.

It has also been learned that Mr. Devine's personal friends in the United States have asked the U.S. Government to intercede and demand that the Guatemalan Government fully investigate the case.

Policeman Shoots At, Misses Congress President

PA2009010890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1617 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The president and the secretary of the Guatemalan Congress, along with the governor of El Progreso, escaped unhurt from a shooting fray by a policeman in eastern Guatemala, according to judicial sources.

The attack occurred on 16 September in the Nueva Vida neighborhood in El Progreso, as Congress President Marco Antonio Bardon was campaigning together with Leonardo Rammazzini, secretary of the Congress, and Arnulfo Archila, governor of El Progreso.

Sources at the office of the justice of the peace in El Progreso said that, for unknown reasons, National Policeman Armando Carias fired six shots at the government officials, missing all six shots.

The policeman, who was off-duty at the time of the shooting, has already been arrested.

The Congress president, who is a member of the ruling Christian Democratic Party, abstained from commenting on the incident when asked to do so.

On 17 September unidentified men murdered PDC Assistant Secretary Sebastian Morales in the northwestern Department of El Quiche.

Nicaragua

UNO, FSLN Deputies Discuss Dialogue

PA1909152890 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Passages in italics are recorded]

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro has announced that the national dialogue process will begin at 0900 on 20 September at the Olof Palme Convention Center. The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has issued a communique on the national dialogue, in which, it states, in short, that the interests of the majority of the people will not be negotiated by the country's leadership. It adds that the people are the main players in the national dialogue. We did a survey on this controversial issue among deputies of the pro-Chamorro government and the FSLN. First, let us listen to Deputy Adan Fletes Valle of the UNO [National Opposition Union] government.

[Fletes] *I believe that the conditions for implementing a national reconciliation process have long existed, and I think that, as part of this process, the need for a social agreement among workers, businessmen, and the government has also existed. We should all come to an agreement, therefore, because the economic crisis we inherited from the previous government is very serious, and we must try to get all the sectors concerned to agree on an economic recovery program that will require great sacrifices. These sacrifices cannot be borne by one sector alone, but must be equally shared.*

Sandinist Deputy Natan Sevilla comments on the national dialogue.

[Sevilla] *There is much talk on the part of the government about its interest in the national dialogue among the government, businessmen, and organized workers on reaching an agreement. At the same time, however, the government, in practice, does not show willingness to create the appropriate conditions for reaching that kind of understanding. The labor sector has been the hardest hit. Every day workers are subjected to mass dismissals, devaluations of the currency that adversely affect their salaries, the suspension of contract negotiations, and disregard for signed collective bargaining agreements. Disturbing elements are being introduced in the working environment and the government is promoting phony labor unions to divide the labor movement. The government does not recognize labor unions that were previously recognized and there has been a series of abuses in the labor sector. I do not think the government is really willing to talk to the labor unions and reach a frank and open understanding as to where those concerned should make mutual sacrifices, if one is talking about a concerted effort.*

We asked National Assembly President Dr. Miriam Arguello to give her opinion on the national dialogue.

[Arguello] *I think that any time is all right when one wants to reach an agreement; it all depends on goodwill.*

[Reporter] *Dr. Arguello, do you see any differences between reconciliation and concerted effort [words indistinct]?*

[Arguello] *A national dialogue means unity of resolve. Reconciliation means that there exist no differences or rifts between groups or individuals.*

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Arguello] *Those are radical positions. I have never supported radical positions.*

What does UNO Deputy Alejandro Solorzano think of the national dialogue?

[Solorzano] *In my opinion it has two parts. A political dialogue among the political parties [words indistinct] the 25 February elections. It was an open political dialogue, as a dialogue should be, among all the political parties, and it led to the 25 February elections. It was a political dialogue for a specific case. Another specific case would be a political dialogue to advocate respect for actions by the country's three fundamental forces concerning yet another national dialogue—the socioeconomic dialogue.*

There could be broad national dialogue in Nicaragua, but [words indistinct] believe that a socioeconomic dialogue is worthless, politically speaking. The problems that [words indistinct] are the failure to distribute goods or the lack of production because there is no way to distribute products. The three basic pillars in a socioeconomic national dialogue, therefore, would be the government, represented by the state administrator; the business sector—private, [word indistinct], and state—regardless of their political positions, represented by their many chambers and management organizations; and the workers, represented by all labor unions. If this national dialogue is not carried out, the societies with (?the least resources), especially Nicaragua's, will not be able to get an economic start.

For FSLN National Assembly Deputy Danilo Aguirre, a national dialogue means the following:

[Aguirre] *From the point of view of national interests and the dead end the country is facing, of course there are conditions for a national dialogue. What I have not yet seen are specific government steps that take the people's interests into consideration. All I have seen so far is the desperation of the government due to the economic situation and the total (?budget) cut suffered by the Presidency Ministry [words indistinct], which has been instructed to further strangle this country's economy.*

The government has not shown an overwhelming desire to seek a national dialogue. I will say this much—national dialogues, which have been described as social pacts among workers, businessmen, and governments throughout Latin America, have always been harmful to the workers, who pay their share in quotas of sacrifice to stabilize economies that are never stabilized.

Labor Leader Announces 20 Sep Demonstrations

PA2009022390 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0026 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Lucio Jimenez, the top leader of the FNT [National Workers Front], said at noon today that there would be demonstrations held throughout Managua when the national dialogue begins. He added that workers will not stand idly by in response to the government's propaganda show, as he described the national dialogue. The FNT leader said workers would take to the streets as a means of rejecting the unpopular measures taken by the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro government.

Panama

Arias Rules Out Military Defense of Canal

PA0109142890 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 31 Aug 90 p A1

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Government Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon has said that a military defense of the interoceanic canal, similar to what the United States provides, is something that is "beyond Panama's specific, practical, and economic reach." In a meeting with the legislative commission that is studying the Public Force, he said that Panama must provide protection to the waterway and criticized the attitude of the Noriega regime for confusing this concept with that of defense.

The National Police can be tasked with protecting the Panama Canal, whereas defending it entails a military dimension, he said, adding that he supports the policy of not signing a new agreement to allow the U.S. bases to remain beyond the year 2000. According to Arias Calderon, once the control of the canal is transferred to Panama, the country will not have the capacity to provide the kind of military defense the United States does, which costs that country approximately $750 million per year. The gross income from the waterway enterprise totals $500 million, meaning that we would have to pay that entire amount plus $250 million, he noted.

The minister outlined the basic elements Panama must implement to protect the canal, stressing the need to have a country that lives in peace with itself, or, more importantly, that has accepted living in a democracy. The official also mentioned the participation of a specialized National Police unit to protect the waterway and true neutrality of the canal. He felt that the situation no longer seems unworkable, since the U.S.-USSR confrontation is on the wane.

Although the top official felt the Canal's neutrality is incompatible with the possibility of maintaining U.S. bases beyond the terms of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, he predicted that the progressive demilitarization of the United States and the Soviet Union would make the U.S. installations "a moot question."

"Because of developments on the international scene, I think this topic will become nonexistent," Arias Calderon remarked. He suggested plans be made to compensate for the loss of 5,806 jobs now held by Panamanian employees and the flow of $200 million those installations generate in our economy every year.

Linares Says Time for Reparations From U.S.

PA0509010090 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Sep 90 p 1A

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares said yesterday the United States used its army in Panama because of what Manuel Antonio Noriega and the FDP [Panama Defense Forces] represented, not to simply liberate us from a dictatorship. Responding to a question, Linares stated that that was the reason—and not the liberation of the people of Panama—which prompted the United States to carry out a military operation, because if our freedom had been its motivation it should have caried it out so much sooner.

Linares stated that this is the time to talk of equitable reparation for the economic damage inflicted on Panama. That is why President Guillermo Endara brought up the issue "in a clear voice and in a forthright fashion, and that is the policy we will pursue."

Referring to the remarks by U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton that the Panamanian Government must value the freedom that was acquired, the foreign minister replied: "That is where the problem lies."

He noted: It would seem that for them the only thing that counts is that we were liberated, but there are other factors that we must take into consideration. "First," he explained, "economic sanctions were imposed on this country for two years. Second, the 20 December military operation inflicted damage on people and property, and it was followed by looting that the U.S. Army failed to stop, and this caused a great deal of damage to Panama."

U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton stated recently that this is not the time to discuss whether or not his country would pay compensation to Panama. Hinton also asked what value Panama's democratic government attaches to the acquired freedom.

Linares stated Endara already explained why he felt Panama is entitled to an equitable reparation for the damages caused to the economy from 1987, when U.S. sanctions were imposed to force Noriega out, until the invasion. He said that freedom does have a price, but it happens that that is the only value the United States is taking into consideration.

"If we were to delve into this matter, we will arrive at the conclusion that the United States did not—and this is something I am certain of—conduct its military operation to liberate the Panamanian people, but rather for reasons that interested them," he stated.

When asked if the request for compensation would not dampen the cordial relations between both nations, he said he hoped the sound judgment of U.S. authorities would make them realize they have good friends in Panama, both in the government and in the people.

Linares stated, however, that the people must be compensated for the harm caused to them. The important thing, he added, is that this country suffered harm even though it did not play a leading role, as President Endara so rightly stated in the Legislative Assembly.

Arias Calderon Announces New Security Measures

PA2009025290 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Jose Quintero De Leon]

[Text] The Public Force [FP] and the Technical Judicial Police [PTJ]—the organizations which are responsible for guaranteeing public order and security—adopted new security and protection measures today. They have done so to prevent individuals with ties to the previous military regime and with cases pending in the Panamanian courts from freely walking the streets of Panama.

Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon, government and justice minister, announced the new measures after he learned about the escape of former Captain Asuncion Eliecer Gaitan from the Papal Nunciature, located in the Punta Paitilla neighborhood. Gaitan, who was the chief bodyguard of deposed dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega, had taken refuge in the Vatican Embassy since January.

Dr. Arias Calderon has said that the authorities are desperately looking for Gaitan, who is now considered a fugitive without any legal protection.

For the time being, Arias Calderon has denied the reports that certain individuals or groups—even the FP—have participated in Gaitan's escape. Asked if Gaitan was still in Panama, Arias Calderon said that it is not known whether Gaitan is here or whether he has left the country.

Regarding the additional security and protection measures adopted by the government, Arias Calderon said that these types of measures are implemented within democratic governments and always with respect for international norms.

More on Arias Accusations on Assembly Posts

PA0209223690 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Zoila Rodriguez Jovane]

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has made harsh accusations against the Legislative Assembly factions of Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], the Authentic Liberal Party, and the Arnulfist Party, because thanks to the PRD [Revolutionary Democratic Party] votes, the Assembly elected Alonso Fernandez, Arnulfo Escalona, and Lucas Zarak as president, first vice president, and second vice president of the Legislative Assembly, respectively.

According to the PDC, the retention of parliamentary immunity for three PRD legislators who have cases pending with Panamanian justice and the unfreezing of bank accounts under judicial investigation are some of the commitments made by the other three ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] parties.

While entering the Legislative Assembly premises, Panamanian First Vice President and PDC leader Ricardo Arias Calderon said: "The facts prove that there are individuals willing to ally themselves with the party of the Noriega dictatorship to exclude the PDC from the leadership of the Legislative Assembly."

Citing the maxim of "a man is known by the company he keeps," Government and Justice Minister Arias Calderon added: "The Panamanian people judged Noriega and the PRD, and now they will have to judge these individuals."

Molirena Legislator Alonso Fernandez defeated his opponent PDC Legislator Raul Ossa for the post of Legislative Assembly president by 31 votes to 27 and the abstention of PRD Legislator Gerardo Gonzalez, while Authentic Liberal Party Legislator Arnulfo Escalona won his post by defeating his opponent by 30 to 26 votes and two abstentions. Arnulfist Party Legislator Lucas Zarak defeated Chiriqui Province PDC Legislator Eric Fidel Santamaria by 31 votes against 27 and was fully supported by the PRD faction, which withdrew from the premises after the commotion caused by the controversial Legislative Assembly election results.

Raising his voice because of the statements made by defeated candidate Eric Fidel Santamaria, who was stopped by other legislators as he rushed at Escalona, Arnulfo Escalona said: "You are lying! You are telling a shameful lie!"

Santamaria, who presented the assembly election results as evidence, denied that his attitude was the result of his indignation at being defeated.

Meanwhile, Panamanian Second Vice President Guillermo Ford said that the PRD's votes in favor of the new Legislative Assembly president, a prominent member of his party, "mean nothing, absolutely nothing."

PRD Pact To Have Post Denied

PA0509040890 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Sep 90 p 48

[Text] The Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] bloc in the Legislative Assembly is pleased that our candidate Alonso Fernandez was elected as Assembly president for the second period of sessions.

We would like to explain the following:

1. No Molirena bloc member participated in or reached prior political agreements with any party or group on the slate of candidates for the second assembly session or any other session.

2. No Molirena bloc member has directly or indirectly acquired commitments with the honorable legislators of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) or with anybody representing them, regarding our future actions.

3. The elections that were just held, in which Honorable Legislator Fernandez defeated Honorable Legislator Raul Ossa of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) by a slim margin, are totally normal and healthy in a parliament, and the Molirena bloc feels that all legislators that made sacrifices to topple the narcodictatorship will be duly represented under the presidency of Honorable Legislator Fernandez.

4. The Molirena bloc's political duties in the Legislative Assembly will be in keeping with its conscience and criteria, with the sole purpose of defending the best interests of the nation.

Panama, 1 September 1990

Molirena Bloc Coordinator Leo Gonzalez

PDC Announces Alliance Against Party

PA0509041890 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Sep 90 pp 22, 36

["Announcement" issued by the parliamentary wing of the Christian Democratic Party in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] The PDC's [Christian Democratic Party] parliamentary wing advises the Panamanian people, to whom it is committed above all, of its disillusionment over the incidents that took place at the Legislative Assembly on Saturday, 1 September 1990. It is regrettable that the other government parties chose to forge an alliance with the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] rather than accept the various formulas of conciliation proposed by us in an effort to maintain our united commitment to the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance]. The formulas that were rejected clearly show that an agreement existed with the Norieguists. We held talks with leaders of different parties up until the late hours of Friday night, 31 August, with the purpose of averting the shameful alliance witnessed on Saturday.

In view of the above, the PDC legislators reiterate our working commitment to the people who elected us, in an effort to serve them responsibly from the government positions we hold.

We also reiterate our commitment to justice. Therefore, we will oppose any maneuver that seeks to prevent those who have harmed this country from evading their appearance at the courts.

Saturday, 1 September 1990, is a historic date. On that day, we members of the PDC, remaining loyal to our principles and promises to do justice, preferred to lose our seats on the board of the Legislative Assembly while others obtained that representation by betraying the people who elected them and reaching an agreement with the PRD.

However, the fact that we were excluded does not diminish our struggle to fulfill our promise to guarantee democracy and a better life.

For liberty and social justice,

Raul Ossa [PDC deputy]

PRD Legislator Perinan Responds to Accusations

PA0209201190 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Report on interview with Democratic Revolutionary Party legislator Balbina de Perinan by Lucy Molinar at Tocumen International Airport on 30 August]

[Text] Legislator Balbina de Perinan, who had traveled abroad after losing her parliamentarian immunity, has returned to Panama from Ecuador just in time to recover her privileges as legislator. Balbina de Perinan arrived last night and to our surprise was met by a glamorous white limousine that took her to her home. Her return to the country again raises discussion about the lifting of parliamentarian immunity for her and two other legislators.

[Begin recording] [Molinar] You have been accused of participating in serious crimes, including a murder. What is your response to these accusations?

[Perinan] I suppose that being the mayor of San Miguelito District implies that I masterminded the crime. That is okay. We are willing... [changes thought] We are back now.

[Molinar] What are you willing to do? Are you willing to admit that you participated in this murder?

[Perinan] No, I do not admit anything. There is a dictatorship in place here. There was a military dictatorship before. Now, there is a civilian dictatorship controlled by the United States.

[Molinar] Is your conscience clear on this issue?

[Perinan] Is your conscience clear working here under the existing situation?

[Molinar] Yes, absolutely.

[Perinan] Then we are even. There is no problem. We are clean. I am an honest professional woman. I have returned and I have been working for this country. People who are honest and work hard for this country are here.

I do not think that they [United States] can do more harm than what they have already done. There were 5,000 deaths in this country and someone has to pay for this.

[Molinar] What about the murders of which you have been accused?

[Perinan] Listen, it is up to the Attorney General's Office to prove this. [end recording]

A good friend of Legislator Perinan had rented a [break in reception] to transport her from Tocumen International Airport to her home. Since the question about who will occupy the post of Legislative Assembly president still remains unresolved, it is presumed that the seven votes of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party],

including that of Legislator Balbina de Perinan, will play a decisive role in selecting the upcoming Legislative Assembly president.

Paid Advertisement Praises Dignity Battalions

PA1909134790 Panama City EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 18 Sep 90 p 17

[Paid advertisement by the "Antonio Yepez de Leon" Revolutionary Movement: "The Dignity Battalions"]

[Text] The first of the 18 Dignity Battalions, comprised of volunteers, was created on 27 March 1988. Later, they became part—at the national level—of what was known as the Dignity Brigade.

The brigade members had a political directorate consisting of three civilian spokesmen and a military directorate consisting of [representatives of] the former Defense Forces G-3 [operations] and the General Staff, the respective military zone commanders, and tacticians/instructors.

The political leaders of the Dignity Brigade Patriotic Coordination Command (Copacobrid) were in charge of the nationalistic, anti-imperialist, and anti-oligarchic training of brigade members.

Despite the campaign against the battalions of volunteers, history will record the courage shown by its members and patriotic soldiers against the invaders on that infamous night of 20 December 1989.

Today, the almost three thousand members of these groups who are defending our sovereignty comprise one of the best organized opposition forces and have credibility among our people. That is why the foreign occupational troops are afraid of the Dignity Battalions—"It is that simple."

"Antonio Yepez de Leon" Revolutionary Movement (MRAYL)

1. Eternal glory to the soldiers and brigade members killed in December.
2. Freedom for political prisoners.
3. No humiliated Public Force or foreign army—let us create a People's National Army.
4. Long live patriotic soldiers.

Argentina

Reportage Covers Proposed Deployment to Gulf

Air Force Chief Outlines Plans

PY1909142890 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0232 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Sep (TELAM)—Major Brigadier Jose Julia, Argentine Air Force chief of staff, reported tonight that the Air Force will use a C-130 Hercules and a Boeing 707 to transport equipment and personnel who will join the (?two) Argentine Navy ships being deployed to the Persian Gulf.

Julia said that these two planes will go to the Persian Gulf "as soon as orders are received." The C-130 "will initially operate in the area for as long as the Navy ships—that is, approximately five months."

Julia said the Air Force "will transport personnel," and "the Hercules will stay there for whatever purpose the operations commander sees as fitting."

Julia made these remarks at the end of a ceremony held at the Condor Building during which he decorated Assad Kotaite [name as received], chairman of the International Civil Aviation Organization Council, with the Order of May "for aeronautical merit."

The Air Force chief of staff added that Air Force personnel to be sent to the Gulf "will initially consist of three crews for the plane" because he believes "they will be flying between five and six hours daily." He added that "a rotation system will be implemented" and the crews "and even the planes will be rotated. Thus, several pilots will be going to the Gulf, which should be a good experience."

Asked about the departure of the planes, Julia said: "No date has been established yet;" the Navy "needs around eight to nine days to be able to move its ships, and I believe the Army will need between three and four days to organize its groups and be ready to leave."

Finally, Julia said: "We need a 24-hour advance notice to move our planes. We could leave tomorrow."

Foreign Minister Explains Status

PY1909151890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS AGRENTINAS in Spanish 1212 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Sep (NA)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo considers that "for the time being," the military unit that will be sent to the Persian Gulf "will not run the risk of facing a battle situation" because the unit's men "are not authorized to take offensive action."

However, the foreign minister said: "If there is any type of aggression they must defend themselves."

He also stated that each of the groups that is going to the Gulf "will follow only their own commanders, but the United States is, in practice, undertaking coordination efforts."

He stressed that the Iraqi Government "must be warned that it will have to withdraw its troops from Kuwait. Not only that, but it will also have to accept a system that will be established to control the dangerous weapons that exist in its territory."

"We believe that a system that inhibits nations from possessing and using nuclear or chemical weapons against other nations is fully compatible with the sovereignty of nations," he added.

In an interview with the newspaper CLARIN, Cavallo indicated that Argentina's participation in what he called a "new form of" international "order" is not being undertaken to make the United States happy, it is being undertaken "because we believe it befits the interests of Argentina and all of the world's nations."

Cavallo stressed that the decision is "fully coherent with others—strategies—that we have made in our foreign policy."

He indicated that this coherence is expressed "in the decision to resolve the Malvinas dispute only by peaceful methods and not through force."

"It is also coherent with the decision to respect the rules that inhibit nations from proliferating nuclear and nonconventional weapons," he stressed, adding: "It is coherent with the decision to paralyze and dismantle the Condor project."

The foreign minister maintained: "This is not a war between two nations disputing oil," because "while it is true that the crisis puts the petroleum supply in danger, it is a risk for all nations."

He stated that Argentina, contrary to other Latin American countries, is sending a military unit because "there are no Argentines in the Kuwait-Iraq area and because with the decision made on Condor, Argentina has no commitments with Iraq, and we can respond to the request that has fundamentally been made by the Arab nations..."

He explained: "Argentina's participation in the Gulf was requested by the Arab countries of Kuwait, Egypt, and Morocco, which requested it verbally," and noted the fact that "the United States informed us that they had accepted the Kuwaiti request."

He then said: "Italy indicated to us that a Latin American presence would be important so the new order could be really global."

Cavallo preferred not to comment on other Latin American countries' decisions not to send military forces, and he considered that Argentina's attitude "is fitting for our national interests," because "we foresee that a new

security system is being formed that will function within the economic and political system," in addition to the fact that "we want to be present and participate."

He stated that Argentina's participation is being paid by "special funds contributed by the Arab countries and industrialized nations."

He also explained: "Because it is a question of force to control implementation of the embargo enforced by Article 41 of the UN Charter and not a question of an intervention force, it is a decision that comes within the sphere of the executive branch."

He indicated that if Argentina participates in this type of situation, "it will have more opportunities" of being consulted in the building of the new international order, despite the fact that up to the present time it has not been consulted.

Romero, Adm. Osses Give Views

PY1909235890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2230 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 19 Sep (NA)—Defense Minister Humberto Romero today reported that the military peace force that will be sent to the Persian Gulf will have "its own command," which in turn will respond to the joint staff. He said that 100 Army troops will be deployed to the theater of operations in several Arab countries in a second stage.

Regarding funds and travel expenses, Admiral Emilio Osses, chief of the Joint Staff, said that this figure will be based on travel expenses abroad. He rejected a rumor circulating in Congress that claimed that each member of the Army contingent would receive $10,000 monthly.

The destroyer "Admiral Brown" will be commanded by Frigate Captain Alejandro Tierno, while the corvette "Spiro" will be commanded by Frigate Captain Oscar Gonzalez. Navy Captain Eduardo Rosenthald, who will travel on the "Admiral Brown," will command the force.

Romero and Osses held a long news conference at the Defense Ministry to explain the details of the peace operation ordered by President Carlos Menem. "Given the detente between East and West, the only way to break this peace was through a regional conflict, which began when Iraq invaded Kuwait," Minister Romero said.

He added: "From that moment, a new global defense arrangement began to be created, based mainly on UN actions." "The idea is to force, through international pressure and without bloodshed, an aggressive country to restore the previous status quo," Romero said.

"The new international safety mechanism that is being created is new, and Argentina cannot miss out and be left out of the progress of the modern world," he added. "In all, this new mechanism that Argentina is joining will allow a system of guarantees for all countries so that they may dedicate their natural resources to development and not to a defensive arms race to prevent more powerful neighbors from devastating them."

As for details on the command, Admiral Osses said that "there will be an Argentine command because each country that has sent troops have their own commands." Only the European countries have a "coordinated" command, he added.

The Argentine ships "do not have a planned response" to a hypothetical attack because "they are going on a peace mission, in compliance with a UN petition." Osses said that their mission is "to control the observation of the embargo against Iraq, according to the UN order. This is not a war blockade."

Minister Romero pointed out that Argentina's participation pleases all the Arab countries, who see the United States as the only American country participating in the pressure against Iraq.

Regarding the 100 Army officers that will be sent later, Romero said: "They will go as observers to the different Arab countries involved in the conflict to get direct experience in the deterrent operations that have begun."

[Words indistinct] will serve, he said, to project the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Congress Reportedly 'Will Decide'

PY2009024290 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0005 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Sep (NA)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo said today that Congress is the constitutional power that will decide whether Argentina would eventually join an intervention force in the Persian Gulf if a war breaks out in the region. The minister also said: "If there is an Iraqi attack" against the Argentine military forces in the Persian Gulf, "they will have to defend themselves."

Cavallo said that "if a war breaks out" in the Middle East, "an intervention force will have to be organized according to Article 42 and the additions to Article 43 of the UN Charter." In that case, the minister added, "a resolution by the UN Security Council will be necessary, as will an agreement among each of the countries that participates in that intervention force and the United Nations."

"According to our Constitution, this agreement should be approved by the National Congress," Cavallo told a radio station.

Menem 'Sorry' Congress Rejects Plan

PY2009025690 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0142 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Sep (DYN)—In his only public statement of the day, President Carlos Menem tonight said "he is very sorry" about the decision by a majority

of congressmen to reject the national government's order to send troops to the Persian Gulf.

"I am very, very sorry," Menem stated briefly when asked about the congressional criticism of his decision to have Argentina participate in the Persian Gulf conflict through a "deterrent" force.

Menem made this statement as he was leaving the Metropolitan Cathedral, where Buenos Aires Archbishop Juan Carlos Aramburu, who was replaced today by Antonio Quarracino, bid him farewell.

New Rocket Systems, Fuses Successfully Tested

PY1909235190 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Sep 90 p 8

[Text] The General Directorate of Military Construction [DGFM] has tested new artillery weapon systems that are being developed jointly with the Armed Forces Scientific and Technical Research Center (CITEFA) in Argentina using national technology at a firing range in Salinas Grandes, on the border of Cordoba, La Rioja, and Catamarca Provinces. The tests were conducted to verify the operation of the (16-barrel, surface to surface) "Pampero" rocket launching system placed on a Unimog [Universal Motor Gerat or Universal Power Plant] vehicle. The "Yaguarete" rocket launcher, which is a derivative of the (air to surface) "Slam Pampero" multiple rocket launcher was mounted on a Bell UH-1 H helicopter of the Army Aviation unit.

The DGFM also verified the excellent performance of the "CP" 30 [expansion unknown] multiple rocket system with a 27-barrel rocket launcher mounted on a seven-ton French ACMAT [Ateliers de Construction Mecanique de l'Atlantique] vehicle. From this launcher, the DGFM launched 127-mm "SAPBA"-1 [expansion unknown] rockets, thus demonstrating the perfect compatibility of the "SAPBA" and "CP" 30 rockets using the same launcher and vehicle.

This new "CP" 30 rocket, whose development will soon be completed following these successful tests, will allow Argentina to its efficient range [alcances eficaces] rocket systems in a market that offers little competition.

The DGFM also verified the improved performance of the improvements to the "FMK" [expansion unknown] 13 fuses for 120 mm mortar ammunition. These advanced-technology fuses are currently exported to other countries after having won against other brands of international prestige. The remarkable performance of the projects developed by the "Fray Luis Beltran" military factory in close cooperation with the CITEFA will allow the DGFM to authorize the sale of new products on the international market, according to the guidelines established by the government for the Argentine Military Industries.

One Million Laborers Reportedly Out of Work

PY2009003290 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Sep 90 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—[Passage omitted] A million industrial workers have lost their jobs over the past year as a result of the growing recession and low productivity levels. A year ago, the different branches of industry employed 2.3 million people but now only provide jobs for around 1.3 million, according to Argentine Industrial Union (UIA) president Gilberto Montagua.

Bolivia

Cultural Agreement Signed With Panama

PY2009030690 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] The Bolivian and Panamanian Governments have signed documents ratifying a bilateral cultural cooperation agreement.

After signing the documents, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Javier Murillo de la Rocha said that the objective of the agreement is to promote cooperation in the educational, scientific, and cultural sectors. The agreement reaffirms the historical and cultural links between Bolivia and Panama, noting that friendly ties (?have developed) through cultural cooperation.

For his part, the Panamanian diplomatic representative stressed that it is important that nations in this part of the world and other similar organizations support culture at various levels.

According to the representatives of the two nations, the agreement provides for a broad range of possibilities for bilateral cooperation and integration.

Brazil

Rezek on Citizens in Iraq, Future Relations

PY2009033590 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Sep 90 p 18

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek by Cristina Veiga in Brasilia; date not given]

[Text] [Veiga] Aren't the Iraqis exercising absolute control over Brazilian diplomacy?

[Rezek] Diplomacy can be confused by this type of situation. Diplomacy at times has to experience situations that are a bit embarrassing, because it realizes that its efforts may not yield any results, no matter how appropriate. This happens in abnormal, unexpected situations in an area that is not central to international life.

[Veiga] Does that mean that Brazilian foreign policy will abandon its pragmatism?

[Rezek] It means above all the adoption of an ethical attitude; we are certain that this is the most pragmatic course. Yet it also means abandoning the pragmatic attitudes that might have seemed shrewd in the past, but which in the final analysis have not yielded any better results.

[Veiga] The Mendes Junior company decided to reject the Iraqi demand to subcontract a local enterprise to continue with its project. Has the enterprise changed its mind because the government applied pressure or because the government promised to help it in the future?

[Rezek] One of the most obvious features of the current administration is that it has no interest at all in supporting private undertakings. This position was very clearly outlined during the talks I had with Mr. Murilo Mendes. Under no circumstances will the government abandon its position regarding the line between state and private funds. This is one of the soundest foundations of its policy. One of the things to which I had to devote much effort during the talks with Mr. Murilo Mendes was the thesis that, under the current circumstances, the company should not fear that its relations with the Iraqi Government might turn out to be harmful when the situation returns to normal because of concessions that the company may have made in an effort to withdraw its men from the dangerous area.

[Veiga] Has the government taken any steps to remove the group headed by Brigadier Piva from Iraq?

[Rezek] Our embassy considers the Brazilian community in Iraq, which consists of 290 people, to be a single group that is not divided into classes or categories. Practically all of them are adult men. There is no discrimination whatsoever with respect to this or that group. Concerning the allusions that the press has sometimes made—that the Iraqi Government would be more hesitant to issue departure permits for the approximately 22 men employed by Piva than for personnel of the Mendes Junior, Maxion, and Volkswagen companies—I cannot say to what extent such allusions are true.

[Veiga] Are all of Brazil's hopes carried by the mission that went to Baghdad?

[Rezek] From a diplomatic viewpoint, this is a very important mission because of the knowledge that the members of the mission have of the area, the persons, the general status of bilateral relations, and—above all—because of their capacity to contact other Iraqi officials with real decisionmaking power. It is clear that there is considerable centralization in Iraq. Our request will be heard by those who make the decisions. This is the most we can do in the diplomatic field.

[Veiga] If the mission fails, what is the next step?

[Rezek] If the bilateral Brazilian diplomatic effort to convince Iraq that we have the right to demand the release of Brazilians fails, and considering that we have no intention whatsoever of engaging in any individual military action, we would have to place our expectations in the actions deemed appropriate by the United Nations. Our possibilities for action would be practically exhausted.

[Veiga] Will the delay in issuing departure permits harm relations with Iraq in the future?

[Rezek] It will harm them, without a doubt. When everything turns out fine, however, problems are soon forgotten. If the situation remains unchanged for an indefinite period, however, it will undoubtedly affect bilateral civil and commercial ties in the future.

Minister Opens Meeting, Comments on Prices

PY1909204690 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Infrastructure Minister Ozires Silva is attending the World Energy Conference [WEC] meeting in Rio de Janeiro. This council is the only international organization that deals with all kinds of energy-related matters. It last met in Brazil 20 years ago.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Infrastructure Minister Ozires Silva opened the meeting, which is being attended by representatives of 90 countries. These representatives will discuss measures to rationally use and conserve energy. Another concern is the environment, and the council intends to find ways to produce energy without harming nature.

The WEC meeting opened one day after the price of petroleum reached an eight-year high. As of yesterday a barrel of petroleum cost $33 on the international market. Minister Silva said that this situation will not affect the price of fuel in Brazil, at least in the short term. He explained that Brazil is buying as little oil as possible, simply maintaining the supply without attempting to build up reserves. The minister also announced that the government has already developed an emergency program to maintain fuel supplies in case of war in the Persian Gulf. He did not, however, provide any details of this program.

[Silva] We have been maintaining our normal stock of fuels, which is enough for 45 days of unrestricted consumption. If there is a crisis, it will hardly affect the entire range of our requirements. I do not foresee a shortage of petroleum. [end recording]

Government Enacts Provisional Measure 222

PY1909223090 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Sep 90 Economic Section p 15

["Text" of Provisional Measure 222, dated 11 September 1990, and signed by President Fernando Collor de Mello and Justice Minister Bernardo Cabral]

[Text] This measure modifies the basic structure of the Secretariat of Science and Technology of the Presidency of the Republic and establishes other provisions.

The president of the Republic, exercising the authority vested in him by Article 62 of the Constitution, hereby decrees the following provisional measure, which shall be binding as law:

Article 1. Article 11 of Law 8028, dated 12 April 1990, shall read as follows:

"Article 11. The Secretariat of Science and Technology shall be in charge of planning, coordinating, supervising, and controlling scientific and technological activities, including basic industrial technology, research and development in priority areas, and formulating and implementing information science and automation policy. The Secretariat has the following basic structure:

I. National Science and Technology Council;
II. National Information Science and Automation Council;
III. Planning Department;
IV. Department of Coordination of Executive Organs;
V. Program Coordination Department;
VI. Technology Department;
VII. Department of Information Science and Automation Policy;
VIII. National Institute of Space Research;
IX. National Institute for Amazon Region Research;
X. National Institute of Technology."

Article 2. The National Science and Technology Council, CCT, shall be in charge of:

I. Studying and proposing:

a. Guidelines and objectives of the national science and technology policy and measures to reconcile it with other public policies;

b. Science and technology draft bills regarding the multiyear plan, budget guidelines, and yearly budgets;

c. Federal plans and programs in the science and technology area;

d. The creation and improvement of instruments promoting and encouraging scientific and technological development and the dissemination and assimilation of its results, which are required for national companies to mobilize funds earmarked for their technological enhancement;

f. [No paragraph "e" as published] general guidelines and international, multilateral, and bilateral exchange and cooperation mechanisms in the science and technology area;

g. General guidelines and technology transfer mechanisms and their dissemination and assimilation in the country;

II. Discussing:

a. Guidelines and rules and regulations to allocate funds from the National Fund for Scientific and Technological Development [Fundo Nacional de Desenvolvimento Cientifico e Tecnologico];

b. Guidelines and rules and regulations with the goal of achieving coordinated and cooperative actions among the organs of the Federal Public Administration and its complete agreement with state governments in the science and technology area;

III. Monitoring and assessing the Federal Government's science and technology policy, plans, and programs and their respective budgets.

Article 3. The CCT is made up of the following members:

I. The science and technology secretary, as president;

II. A representative of the:

a. Foreign Relations Ministry;
b. Education Ministry;
c. Health Ministry;
d. Economy, Finance, and Planning Ministry;
e. Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Ministry;
f. Infrastructure Ministry;
g. Armed Forces General Staff;

III. A representative of the State Science and Technology Secretaries;

IV. Six representatives from the scientific, technological, and business communities appointed by the president of the Republic from lists presented by the science and technology secretary in triplicate.

Article 4. The powers of the Special Secretariat for Information Science [SEI] are hereby transferred to the Department of Information Science and Automation Policy of the Secretariat of Science and Technology.

Single Paragraph. The SEI patrimony and experts are hereby transferred to the Secretariat of Science and Technology.

Article 5. The powers of the organs mentioned under Items III and X of Article 11 of Law 8028, dated 12 April 1990, with the way Article 1 of this provisional measure reads, will be defined by the Regulatory Structure [Estrutura Regimental] of the Secretariat of Science and Technology that will be approved by the executive branch.

Article 6. This provisional measure becomes effective the day it is published.

Article 7. All provisions contrary to this provisional measure are hereby abrogated.

Brasilia, 11 September 1990; 169th anniversary of independence and 102d anniversary of the Republic.

[Signed] Fernando Collor

Bernardo Cabral

Correction on Nuclear Reprocessing Mastered

PY1809222890

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Nuclear Waste Reprocessing Technology Mastered" in the 18 September Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 33:

Column one, paragraph two, only sentence make read: ...years had the IEA-1 [Atomic Energy Institute] reactor used by... (providing expansion of acronym).

Correction to Nuclear Oversight Viewed

PY1809213490

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Oversight of Nuclear Programs Examined" published in the 18 September Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 34:

Column two, paragraph seven, sentence one make read: ...that the area should be under permanent... (rewording).

Chile

Policy in Relations With U.S. Criticized

PY1909202090 Santiago APSI in Spanish 12-25 Sep 90 pp 10-12

[Article by Nibaldo Fabrizio Mosciatti: "Careful With the Wolf"]

[Excerpts] The pro-government sector voices its position on "normalizing" the relations with the United States. The opposition criticizes the Foreign Ministry's "indulgent" attitude and its "predilection" toward the northern country. In the background of the situation there are several pending problems such as those in the economic sector: the Kennedy amendment which is still in force and the government, through Minister Enrique Correa, termed "anachronistic;" the suspension of the Generalized System of Preference (GSP) and the suspension of the insurance system for U.S. investments in Chile (OPIC) [Overseas Private Investment Corporation]; the maintenance and expansion of the marketing order [preceding two words in English], the tariff barrier preventing the U.S. entry of Chilean fruit; and the issue of pharmaceutical patents, among others.

The government believes that there will be "positive news" shortly. It is referring to the possibility that Chile may again join the GSP and the OPIC. [passage omitted]

A high-ranking Chilean Government official has said that there are four problems in the political sector: the marketing orders, the GGP-OPIC, the pharmaceutical patents issue, and the Kennedy amendment. He said: "In view of this situation, what have we done? We promoted a new labor law, which is a fact that could have served to lift the ban on the GSP. The government is drafting a law on pharmaceutical patents. We were the first to approve President Bush's Initiative for the Americas, and we have showed a notable willingness to negotiate the remaining matters. Despite this fact we have received no U.S. response on any of these subjects."

This is why "we are considering a change of attitude," as a government spokesman has already said. We can now say without embarrasment that "things have reached such a point that we urge the United States to make a decision." He added: "We inherited the bilateral problems from the previous administration, whose dictatorial system was a complicating factor in our relations. The situation has changed in Chile, which is now ruled by a democratic government, and many of the U.S. pretexts for maintaining the restrictive measures have disappeared."

Chilean goodwill has even gone beyond the limits of the reasonable and has reached a point that the opposition and some pro-government sectors have privately described as "shameful": the inmediate designation of an ambassador to Panama, the approval of the government headed by Endara, installed by a foreign (U.S.) military force and sworn in at a U.S. military base. The U.S. Government certainly required the international support for that government. It obtained Chilean support in exchange for nothing. Chilean doubts about reestablishing relations with Cuba are also being analyzed just when the U.S. Government said that it will not agree with the reestablishment of those relations. (It should be recalled that the U.S. Government also opposed the reestablisment of relations with the USSR during the Frei administration, and nobody paid attention to it). Both cases are described by the opposition and other sectors as "concessions."

Regarding the domestic sector, the very privileged treatment that Ambassador Gillespie receives is being criticized. Gillespie meets Patricio Aylwin whenever he wishes. Also criticized is the fact that the Chilean Government itself gave "explanations" after Jose Antonio Guzman, chairman of the Production and Commerce Confederation, delivered a harsh speech against U.S. protectionist measures in the presence of U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher. The rightist sector now charges that this U.S. "colonialist" attitude has been met by a Chilean attitude of subordination. Some members of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy are not far from this position.

What is at the bottom of this criticism? It is that such signs of goodwill, so to speak, are not reciprocated by the United States of America and that this is so because there is no well-defined international policy framework at the Foreign Ministry to proceed with the relations with the country of the North. In sum, it is that Chile has a "reactive" policy toward the United States of America, that it does not globally negotiate problems with that country, and that Chile's concessions are therefore not part of a strategy that seeks, in exchange for such concessions, benefits in other areas of our bilateral relations. An expert, who was a member of the opposition alliance foreign relations commissions before the inauguration of this administration, has complained that

"the bilateral situation was initially discussed point by point, but without a global approach to our bilateral relations." Regarding this criticism, the government has indicated that this level of global negotiations will be achieved as a result of talks on Bush's Initiative for the Americas.

What has happened? Chile has overestimated the impact that the restoration of democracy would have on our bilateral relationship. Furthermore, there is a psychological element that inhibits the Chilean Government: Recognizing the North American efforts to promote the restoration of democracy, the pro-government sector feels "indebted" to the country of the North, a fact that prevents it from standing firm against the latter. [passage omitted]

Terrorists Shoot Carabineros Officer in Santiago

PY1909183390 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Carabineros officer Juan Cisterna Soto, who was wounded last night by terrorists in the Jose Maria Caro shantytown, is still hospitalized at the Carabineros Hospital. His condition is serious but stable. His life is not in danger.

As is known, unidentified attackers last night opened fire on two Carabineros officers from a [words indistinct] van. The officers were attacked while patroling the area of Jose Joaquin Prieto and Departamental Avenues.

Cisterna Soto was shot in the chest, and his partner Juan Rojas Reyes was unhurt.

Correction to Air Force Commander on 11 Sep

PY1809160290

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Air Force on Failure To Commemorate 11 Sep" published in the 18 September Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 35:

Throughout item, change spelling of the name of the Chilean Air Force commander to read: Fernando Matthei.

Colombia

Medellin Cartel Claims Kidnapping of Journalists

PA1909232290 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2135 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bogota, 19 Sep (DPA)—Spokesmen for the Medellin Cartel, the world's largest drug trafficking cartel, have confirmed to the Bogota morning paper LA PRENSA that the Medellin Cartel is holding several journalists. These journalists mysteriously disappeared on 30 August, when they were trying to establish contact with the commanders of a Colombian guerrilla group.

The group of reporters that have been kidnapped includes Diana Turbay Quintero (daughter of former President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala), Juan Vitta, Azucena Lievano, German reporter Hero Buss, and two television cameramen.

Today's LA PRENSA has carried many reports on this situation. According to the paper, Turbay Quintero—who is the editor of the magazine HOY POR HOY—was taken to Central America, where the top chiefs of the Medellin Cartel are reportedly meeting.

There has been much speculation recently about the "summit" of the mafiosi. This "summit" might produce an official pronouncement concerning the government's measure to reject extradition to the United States and reduce the sentences of the drug traffickers and the terrorrists who turn themselves in to the authorities and confess their crimes.

The reporters left Bogota last 30 August to interview former Spanish priest Manuel Perez, also known as "Poliarco." The priest is the general commander of the pro-Cuban guerrilla group—the Army of National Liberation (ELN).

However, the reporters were reportedly kidnapped by dissidents within the ELN following orders from the Medellin Cartel.

The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB), which comprises all the rebel movements of the country, denied several days ago any involvement in the case.

A spokesman for the mafia told LA PRENSA that Turbay Quintero was separated days ago from the other reporters, who are presently in Colombia. They are all in good health.

Members of the mafia tried to kidnap well-known journalist Yamid Amat, news director of the Caracol radio station, during an operation that failed on 31 August, one day after the other reporters left.

The morning paper added that the main "capos" of the Medellin Cartel—Pablo Escobar Gaviria, and the brothers Jorge Luis, Fabio, and Juan David Ochoa—left the country on a Twin Otter plane stolen last 5 July in Panama.

According to LA PRENSA, other major narcotics traffickers—Fidel Castano Gil and Camilo Zapata—also left for Central America in another plane stolen in Panama last 16 August. Fidel Castano Gil has been charged with leading the ultrarightist paramilitary groups of the Mafia.

The Cartel sources announced that the youngest Ochoa brother, Juan David, will reportedly turn himself over to the authorities very soon if the Mafia accepts the decree issued by the government of President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo.

The spokesman said that the Cali Cartel, a staunch enemy of the Medellin mafia, tried to bribe Uruguayan referee Juan Daniel Cardellino during a game of the Liberators of America Cup. The cartel wanted to ensure that the Vasco Da Gama Team from Brazil beat the National Athletics Soccer Team.

Because of this incident, the South American Soccer Confederation (CSF) declared the game played in Medellin last 29 August null and void, even though the home team clearly won with a score of two to zero.

Son of Publisher, Another Kidnapped 19 Sep

PA2009015890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0109 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Bogota, 19 Sep (EFE)—Colombian journalist Francisco Santos Calderon, son of the publisher of Bogota's EL TIEMPO newspaper, Hernando Santos Castillo, was kidnapped today by unidentified individuals who killed his driver, the authorities have reported.

Bogota Police Chief General Nacin Yanine Diaz said that several vehicles intercepted the car in which Santos Calderon was travelling in western Bogota. Santos Calderon is the chief of the editorial staff of EL TIEMPO.

The unidentified individuals killed the journalist's driver, Romancio Ibanez, who offered resistance, Gen. Yanine Diaz said.

Eyewitnesses told the police there was heavy shooting at the time of the kidnapping.

The incident took place a few hours after another group of unidentified individuals kidnapped Marina Montoya de Perez, sister of German Montoya Velez, former secretary general of the Presidency, in northern Bogota.

EPL's Southern Front To Join Peace Process

PA1909165690 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Sep 90 p 7a

[Report by Maria del Rosario Arrazola]

[Text] After a heated debate, which almost created a new dissident faction within the Popular Liberation Army (EPL), its Southern Front, which operates out of Putumayo, decided this past weekend to join the government's peace process.

The "Aldemar Londono" Front, which operates mainly out of Putumayo, had rejected such negotiations since talks with this guerrilla group began.

It gave several reasons. One was that the new approach to the Marxist-Leninist plan had been gradually sinking in among the rebel ranks and the legal left.

This ideological debate led to agreement on drafting a dialogue strategy that will become the political base of the EPL majority.

The idea of seeking contacts with the government thus began to develop.

What happened after that is known to all. Former National Commander Francisco Caraballo withdrew, claiming that the government's proposal seeks a surrender, and, most surprisingly, the "Aldemar Londono" Front agreed with him.

However, that front's position was not as categorical as the commander's, because there were still points of agreement that had to be encouraged. The front's major fear was that the government would be unable to guarantee their reincorporation into civilian life.

It did not trust the peace plan presented by the presidential advisory board because it is intended to control only the guerrillas, not the paramilitaries or drug traffickers.

However, the facts overcame the front's arguments one by one. The relocation of the organization's headquarters to Pueblo Nuevo (Antioquia Department), the expulsion of Caraballo from the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party, and his removal from the EPL led it to reconsider its position, which would have been tragic to the process had it been maintained.

This was so because the "Aldemar Londono" Front had not only expressed political and ideological support, but also military support for Caraballo's position.

The unanimous agreement that all EPL commanders must "adhere" to the concept of holding talks with the government was the determining factor.

The document that was issued convening a national constituent assembly also influenced the front's decision.

While talks with the government were taking place, there were also important contacts with Cordoba Department cattlemen and self-defense groups in Middle Magdalena.

Finally, the Guerrilla Coordinating Board plan was discarded, because FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and the ELN [National Liberation Army] firmly maintained their decision not to participate in the dialogue.

Ecopetrol Announces Oil Delivery Delays

PA2009020090 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bogota—It has been officially announced that Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] will not be able to keep its international oil delivery commitments because guerrillas have damaged its pipelines.

Ecopetrol has asked for three extra days to supply one million barrels of crude while it repairs the damaged pipelines. Guerrillas blew up the pipeline in Arauca and the one in Magdalena. According to Ecopetrol spokesmen, oil pumping was suspended last week, and this has delayed deliveries.

Paraguay

Minister on Economic Integration With Chile

PY1909171290 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
17 Sep 90 p 8

[Text] Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken stressed the excellent and cordial relations between the peoples and Governments of Paraguay and Chile.

Frutos Vaesken, who yesterday returned from Santiago, referred to the talks with Chilean officials, during which he analyzed the possibility of Paraguay joining the Southern Cone Common Market and the activities of the Pro-Chile [Chilean Institute for Export Promotion] organization in charge of the neighboring country's exports.

The foreign minister added that without doubt "the whole American continent is speaking the same language, communications are easy, and there is a good spirit in favor of integration and bilateral agreements."

Frutos Vaesken noted the Chilean Government's goodwill in studying a free trade bilateral agreement between the two countries, an offer that will be examined to see how it can be carried out within the framework of an integration project with the countries members of the River Plate Basin (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Bolivia, and Paraguay).

Minister Frutos Vaesken, who referred to Paraguay's joining the Latin American Common Market in positive terms, announced that in the next few days a special mission from the Pro-Chile organization will arrive in Paraguay. Its members will "talk with us to give us guidelines on how to increase our exports." He said that during his visit to Santiago, the members of the Paraguayan delegation, made up by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Hugo Saguier Caballero and International Economic Affairs Under Secretary Efrain Dario Centurion, and Foreign Ministry adviser Martin Burt, met with Pro-Chile officials to exchange ideas on the experiences of this Chilean organization.

The foreign minister also said that a way to increase product exchange between Chile and Paraguay will be sought during the Chilean officials' visit to Paraguay since "they are interested in our beef and other nontraditional products of our country."

Today Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken will travel to the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.

Foreign Minister Holds Integration Talks

PY1909184090 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
19 Sep 90 p 17

[Excerpt] Yesterday Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken presented a detailed report to the president of the Republic on his recent visit to the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

The foreign minister emphasized the importance and transcendence of the issues reviewed with his Bolivian counterpart, Carlos Iturralde. The two ministers signed a joint declaration. According to this declaration, Paraguay and Bolivia commit themselves to work for bilateral and Latin American integration.

Frutos Vaesken pointed out that, in addition to talks about Paraguay joining the future Latin American Common Market, he reviewed with his Bolivian counterpart the progress achieved in the Paraguay-Parana waterway project. The two ministers expressed their satisfaction over the development of the project by which the Parana and Paraguay Rivers will become a means of transportation of vital importance to the integration of the River Plate Basin member countries.

During their talks in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra on Monday [17 September], the Paraguayan and Bolivian foreign ministers also reviewed the joint struggle against drug trafficking, highway integration, environmental protection, and the defense of democracy and human rights. [passage omitted]

Spain's Gonzalez Sends Letter to President

PY2009003990 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
14 Sep 90 p 8

[Text] Spanish Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Inocencio Arias yesterday said: "I bring a personal letter from Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez that I will hand to President Rodriguez and to the presidents of all sister republics."

Arias held a special meeting with President Rodriguez at Government House yesterday morning. During the meeting he delivered to President Rodriguez a personal letter from Felipe Gonzalez in which Gonzalez proposes the creation of a high-level organization made up of Spain and Latin American countries to promote major integration and development.

Arias stressed the willingness of General Rodriguez toward his Spanish counterpart's proposal, saying that this proposal is related to the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the American continent by Christopher Columbus.

Arias said: "Considering the significance of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Americas, which will be celebrated in 1992, we are planning to commemorate it by looking toward the future."

He said that President Gonzalez' proposal will be more than just the creation of another high-level organization. "He wants to receive proposals from several presidents on the way to promote major cooperation among the countries that share some common objectives."

He said: "This proposal seeks to implement common projects through which to increase cooperation. The Spanish Government wants to meet this objective through the cooperation of all brotherly countries." He added that this proposal could be approved during a presidential summit that may be held in Madrid as part of the program to mark the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the American Continent. Felipe Gonzalez may visit Paraguay in 1992.

Navy Commanders Criticize Political Activity

PY2009134090 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 Sep 90 p 9

[Excerpt] Coronel Bogado, Itapua Department—On 14 September Navy Commander Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit criticized the method implemented by certain political sectors including the Colorado Party, whose main leaders are involved in daily discussions, charges, and disagreements, neglecting the role they must play in this transition process toward democracy. When asked about his previous remark criticizing the intense domestic political activity, he said: "I believe it appropriate to note the fact that we are making much effort in the political sector and little effort in the productive area."

Gonzalez Petit stressed the importance of working for the country's full recovery, taking advantage of the current situation. "We military are quietly working in our barracks. We are even carrying out tasks whenever we can because we think this is a great opportunity to seriously do our duty and to make plans." He added that "something is being done but very slowly."

Asked about the recent attendance of high-ranking military at the ceremony to mark a new anniversary of the Colorado Party at the National Memorial, Gonzalez Petit said: "Mere attendance at a political event cannot be regarded as incorrect because, like all citizens, each of us has a religious and political leaning. We have our own ideas, and we also have the right to attend any political event." [passage omitted]

Peru

Fujimori Announces New Tariff Policy

PY1909162890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Excerpt] This afternoon President Alberto Fujimori announced the country's new tariff policy. Giving some figures, he said that duties on tires will be on the order of 10 or 15 percent, and duties on steel products will stand at 15 percent. He also announced that while there will be a preferential rate for agriculture with a view to promoting it, there will be high rates for manufactured items in an effort to protect national industry.

Fujimori added that to fight monopolies and oligopolies in Peru, the duties on some imported items will be low so that they can have competitive prices on our market.

He made these remarks at the University of Lima upon opening the third international forum of the Economic Council of the Pacific Basin.

[Begin Fujimori recording] We are going to make customs tariffs play again the role they should as an instrument of economic policy and thus make them support actions taken through other instruments. We want to have them provide reasonable protection to national production and to regain their guiding role in allocating funds for investment. They should also meet their goal as a source of revenue. Additionally, customs tariffs should lay the groundwork for promoting the modernization of the Peruvian industry so that we can progress in our objective of reorganizing our industry.

For instance, duties on tires will be between 10 or 15 percent; those on various steel items will be 15 percent. We will also approve additional measures designed to rationalize the production of steel items in those areas in which we can specialize efficiently, so that we may not unjustly punish an industrial sector requiring steel supplies.

Regarding the 24-percent ad valorem CIF [cost, insurance, freight] surcharge, in light of the situation our country is undergoing we will apply a surcharge of 10 or 15 percent ad valorem CIF to all imported goods, with the exception of supplies and capital assets.

Speaking of a tariff structure within a national development policy, we should clearly outline the following basic objectives: first, the search for increased efficiency in economic activities. To this end, we should provide adequate protection to some sectors, not with the objective of promoting either privilege or costly inefficiency. Adequate protection should be provided only through the tariff rate. Any other nontariff protection mechanism such as prohibitions, exemptions, prior licenses, import quotas, and other mechanisms should be ruled out.

Second, we should avoid unnecessary increases in the cost of living by giving similar protection to consumers. The tariff system should not only be instrumental in ensuring a reasonable level of economic activity by giving adequate protection to the national industry, but in preventing unnecessary increases in the cost of living and in guaranteeing a reasonable supply of those items which, because of their nature, are essential to meet the basic needs of the people. In sum, the tariff system must be an instrument that should regulate domestic prices through the free play of supply and demand. In this regard, it is appropriate to set low duties on products that can compete with similar national products, if the latter are manufactured under monopolistic or oligopolistic conditions. In this case, foreign competition will prevent unjustified increases in domestic oligopolic prices.

Third, we want to give preferential protection to the Peruvian value-added factor. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Further on on Privatization

PY1909185690 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has said that essential state-owned companies will not be privatized, while such nonessential companies will be sold or transferred to the private sector. Thus, he reiterated his position on the enterpreneural role of the state.

Commenting on his initiative to address overcrowding in Peruvian prisons, Fujimori said he is not interfering in the affairs of the judicial branch but he is clearly criticizing the slowness of those charged with administering justice.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr. President, what can you tell us about the sale of state-owned companies?

[Fujimori] I want to repeat here what I have said time and again during our electoral campaign; that is, that we will keep those important state-owned companies and that we will privatize those which should not be managed or administered by the state. These companies will be privatized, or some other will be....

[Reporter, interrupting] Mr. President, Peruvian industrialists and businessmen are concerned about the high level of smuggling. What actions will be taken in this area?

[Fujimori] The high smuggling levels will disappear almost naturally because tariffs will not allow this to continue. You are aware that we issued a decree establishing tariff rates ranging from 10 to 50 percent. Thus, our prices will be on a competitive level on the international market.

[Reporter] (?Are you concerned) about the surcharge, Mr. President?

[Fujimori] Yes. It will be temporarily applied only to manufactured products.

[Reporter] Will agriculture be the sector most benefited by these measures?

[Fujimori] That is a priority goal of our economic program.

[Reporter] What do you think of the views of some congressmen about your decision to reduce the number of prison inmates [despenalizar]? Some even claim the measure is unconstitutional.

[Fujimori] We have issued the measure because it has full legal backing. It is a well-founded decree. I hope it will be published in the next few days so that it may be discussed and analyzed. I am sure that in line with constitutional and legal principles, the decree will benefit many citizens who are being unjustly held in prisons.

[Reporter] What do you think of the assertion that your decree is an act of interference by the executive branch in the judicial branch?

[Fujimori] There has been absolutely no interference. It is true, however, that I have openly criticized the judicial branch. [end recording]

10 Terrorists, 3 Police Die in Puno Clash

PY1909164590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0339 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Puno (Peru), 18 Sep (EFE)—The local police reported here today that at least 10 terrorists and three policemen died in an armed clash near the township of Nunoa, 154 km north of the city of Puno—capital of Puno Department—in the southeastern part of the country.

The clash between a police patrol and a column of more than 50 Shining Path members occurred 16 September, but details were not known until 17 September.

The report says that one noncommissioned officer and two corporals died in the two-hour clash and that the police seized one vehicle and several weapons from the retreating rebels.

The report adds that the Shining Path column had in recent weeks attacked several townships in Melgar Province—which encompasses Nunoa—burning several houses and killing thousands of sheep.

The police also reported on 17 September that three people were murdered by Shining Path terrorists in Asillo, a township of Azangaro Province, which is also located in Puno Department.

According to a congressional committee, political violence has thus far claimed the lives of 20,000 people since the Shining Path rose in arms in May 1980.

70 Shining Path Members Killed

PY1909173390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0520 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Lima, 18 Sep (EFE) — Official sources reported today that a total of 70 members of the Shining Path terrorist group were killed when they attacked the police post of the Sepa Penitentiary Center, located in Peru's jungle area, with the intention of freeing the prisoners.

According to a spokesman of the National Penitentiary Institute (INPE), one policeman was killed and three others were wounded during the attack, which occurred on 15 September.

The spokesman indicated that the security forces that were guarding the prison, located in the district of Atalaya, in the jungle department of Ucayali, approximately 500 km east of Lima, prevented the terrorists from obtaining their objective. The forces killed 70 Shining Path members.

He also denied the reports indicating that the security forces of the prison had released 30 prisoners.

The spokesman did not mention how many terrorists attacked the prison, where criminals that are considered highly dangerous are kept.

According to a special congressional committee, political violence has caused more than 20,000 deaths in the past decade and since Shining Path rose up in arms in 1980.

Venezuela

Perez Expresses Support for U.S. in Gulf

PA1909213890 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez toured Guarico State to discuss with its residents their needs in the area of roads and water supply. President Perez promised that before the end of the year, Congress will discuss a program to solve many of their problems. The president also referred to the Persian Gulf conflict and Venezuela's position.

[Begin Perez recording] Despite all its defects and all the criticism it gets, we have always sided with democracy in the world. I don't think anyone would hesitate in choosing whether to support Hitler or the United States. In this struggle for Kuwait's freedom and to prevent the erasing of its border by force, I have no doubt that we must support the United Nations, and within the United Nations, we must support the position adopted by the United States. This is very clear. That is Venezuela's position; it is not merely Carlos Andres Perez' position. [end recording]

Guyana

Jagan Calls for Peace Accord, Jamaican Aid

FL1909180390 Bridgetown CANA in English 1732 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept 19, CANA—Guyana's opposition leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan has called for a peace accord between the government and opposition parties because of pre-election violence here. He also called on the Guyana Government to seek assistance from Jamaica to run the elections which are due by March next year.

Jagan told a press conference Tuesday that a peace accord was necessary in view of the recent outbreak of "organised thuggery and violence" directed at "anti-government democratic forces". The opposition leader, referring to a recent incident in which a Roman Catholic nun was injured, said there was enough evidence that a "sinister" attempt was unfolding to disrupt the opposition's campaign. He denied government allegations that his People's Progressive Party was connected with the incident, in which one man was hospitalised with gunshot wounds.

Making the call for technical assistance from Jamaica, the opposition leader said this would ensure free and fair elections as in Jamaica. Opposition forces in Guyana have often accused the ruling People's National Congress here of rigging past elections.

The opposition leader said he was dissatisfied with the government's refusal to allow the Jimmy Carter Center and other international organisations to monitor polling. He also expressed concern about the attitude of the Commonwealth planning mission which visited Guyana a week ago to prepare for a Commonwealth observer group to monitor the coming elections. According to Jagan, the mission sees the role of the Commonwealth observers as "merely observing" the elections and not looking at laws, regulations and the electoral machinery as sugggested by opposition groups.

Gulf Crisis Causes Increases in Price of Fuel

FL1909172790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1643 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept 19, CANA—Starting this week, Guyanese will face steep increases for petroleum products because of the crisis in the Persian Gulf. Deputy prime minister and minister for planning and development, Haslyn Parris, says that when the next fuel boat arrives here Wednesday, diesel prices will jump by about 42 per cent—from 59 dollars (one Guy dollar = 2.2 U.S. cents) to 83.64 dollars per gallon, an increase of nearly 25 dollars per gallon. When gasolene arrives in another few days, the price will rise by nearly 25 dollars per gallon from the current 65.86 dollars per gallon, Parris told journalists at a briefing session here Tuesday evening. The same scenario would apply to all other petroleum products, he added.

Parris said if the crisis triggered by Iraq's invasion of another oil producer, Kuwait, persists Guyana will have to find an additional one million U.S. dollars per month to pay for fuel imports for the the rest of this year. Guyana spends 3.5 million U.S. dollars per month for fuel imports.

"That increase is going to have to be met from our own funds for there is no more aid left to come. And though the world is not going to be short of product, our ability to get product, will depend on our ability to earn foreign exchange," the deputy prime minister and leading government economist explained.

Parris said the government was not generating the amount of revenue to cushion the impact of the price increases which will be passed on to consumers. Government, he said, will maintain the subsidy of about 28.50 dollars per gallon on kerosene. But if the cost of this product rises, the price to consumers will also increase.

The deputy prime minister explained that the increases seem especially steep because of the low value of the Guyana dollar. Most business is conducted at the Cambio exchange rate now hovering around 87 Guyana dollars to the U.S. dollar. Gasolene is one of four commodities whose prices are computed at the Bank of Guyana rate of 45 dollars to one U.S.

Guyana imports most of its petroleum imports from Venezuela. But since last year some of its fuel imports have been purchased on the spot market under aid programmes with Canada and the United Kingdom. The deputy prime minister noted that under the aid programme with the UK, Guyana will receive "significantly less volume (of fuel) for the same value of money."

Under a 3.9 million pounds sterling UK aid arrangement which ends this month end, Guyana will be able to buy 15,500 barrels less diesel and 10,000 barrels less bunker c fuel (for producing electricity) on the spot market than was originally budgeted for, Parris said. During the period August 2-30, the cost of fuel under the aid arrangement with the the UK rose by between 58 per cent for gasolene and 70 per cent for bunker c fuel. The cost of diesel increased by 64 per cent during the same period.